

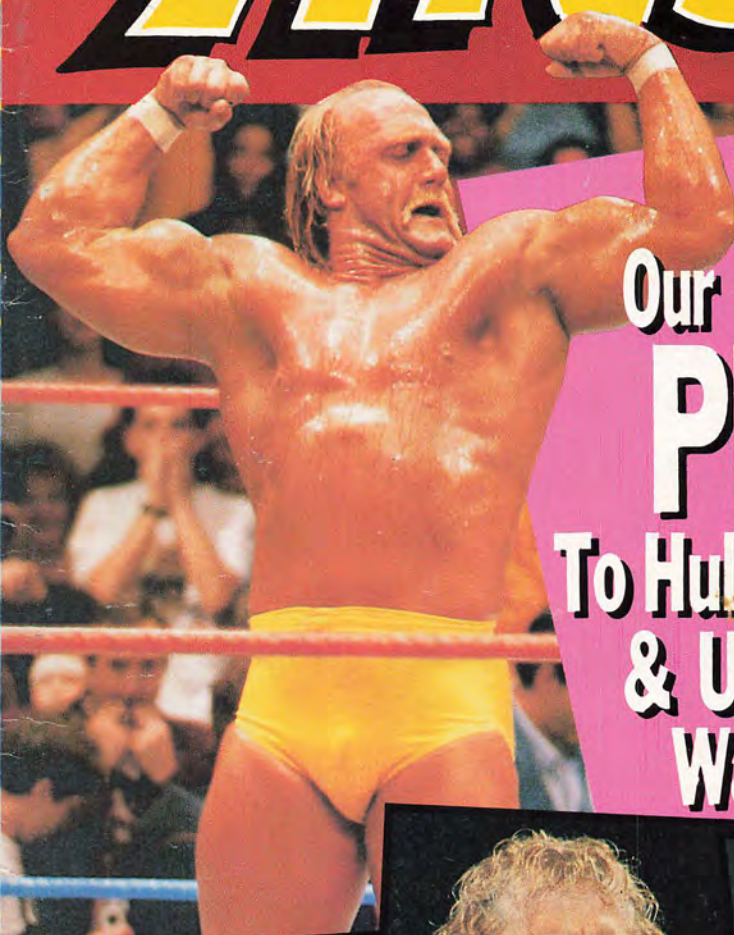
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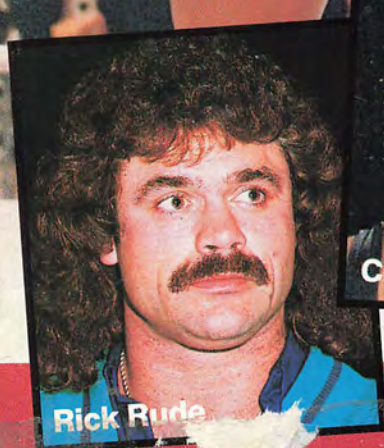
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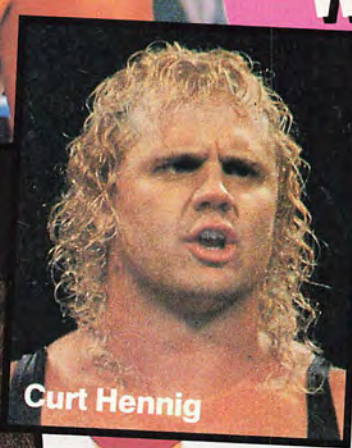
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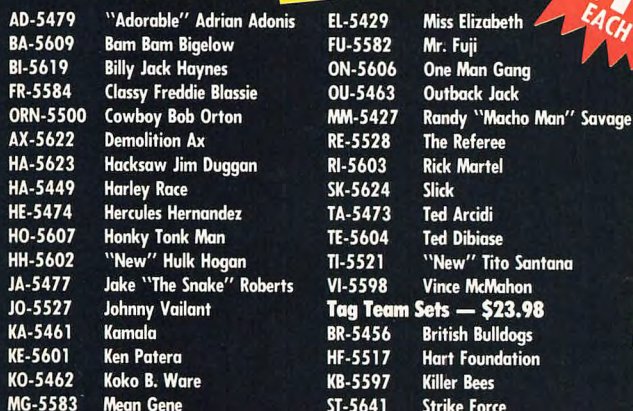
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Wrestling

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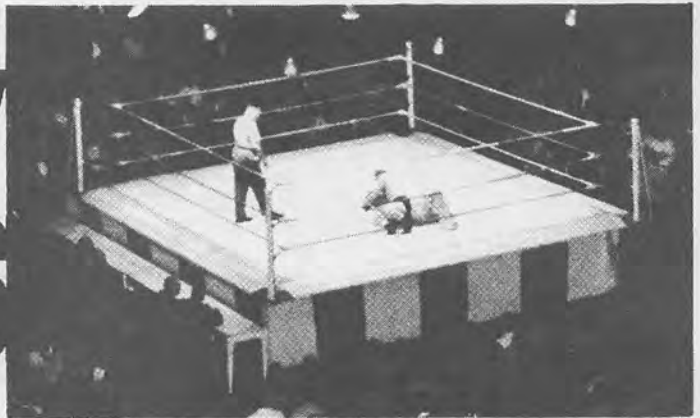
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SINCERELY YOURS

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WOMAN WORRIES

I couldn't agree more with the article in the May 1990 issue about Woman being the worst possible thing for the Horsemen ("Five Reasons Why Woman Is Poison For The Four

Horsemen"). Now that she's been named the business adviser for the organization, I predict that this group hasn't got long to go before it crumbles to the ground.

What did Woman do for Doom?

Nothing! In fact, Ron Simmons and Butch Reed are a better team now than they were when Woman was guiding their careers. At least Teddy Long has an idea about what it takes to form a championship-caliber team. Under Woman, Doom couldn't even win a match.

For the first time, I feel sorry for Ric Flair and the Andersons. I once respected them, but now they're being advised by the most inept leader in wrestling history.

JANE TYBOR
Augusta, ME

I disagree that Woman is bad for the Horsemen. Look at what's already happened since she took over. The Horsemen have managed to get rid of Sting by crippling his left knee, and they've also tried to break Scott Steiner's left arm. What better way to stay on top than to do away with the top contenders?

Woman may be evil, but she's got what it take to be a winner. With her in charge, I'm looking for the Horsemen to dominate the NWA title picture in the months to come.

HAROLD RHINE
Albany, GA

BRAVO BOOSTER

I just picked up a copy of the April '90 edition, and I couldn't believe the letter written by Ben Pertman ("No Bravos For Dino"). How can anyone possibly say that Dino Bravo is not great? We're talking about an 18-year veteran and a former Canadian International champion here!



Is Woman bad for the Horsemen? Reader Jane Tybor calls her "inept," but another reader, Harold Rhine, feels the group has enjoyed much success since she joined them.



Dino Bravo executes a spinecrusher on Jim Neidhart. Reader Melynie Withington thinks Bravo has the experience and skill to win the Intercontinental title.

In my opinion, Bravo is one of the top contenders in the WWF right now, and is more than capable of taking the Intercontinental title from The Ultimate Warrior. If you need more proof, just watch the SummerSlam '88 card where he pinned Don Muraco after just one wrestling maneuver, the side suplex.

Come on, Mr. Pertman, give the man credit for what he is—true championship material.

MELYNIE WITHINGTON
Yuba City, CA

CONSPIRACY OR JEALOUSY?

I have to agree that the NWA tried to ignore Lex Luger's bid for the World title, as it was suggested in the May issue ("Is There An NWA Conspiracy Against Lex Luger?"). Too many times, Luger was ignored in fa-

vor of other contenders.

First, Luger had to wait for Rick Steamboat to get through with his title bid. Next, he had to stand aside as Terry Funk got all the championship matches against Ric Flair. Finally, it looked like he would be passed over again in favor of Sting, but Sting's knee injury allowed Luger to get the championship match he's deserved all along.

The article called it a conspiracy, but to me, the situation was more like pure jealousy. It's clear that Flair and the other NWA wrestlers and promoters can't stand Luger because he always backs up what he says he's going to do. He's a proven winner, and he threatens every man in the NWA with his very presence.

SANDY EVERS
Altoona, PA

Luger is crazy to think that NWA officials were conspiring to keep him away from the NWA title. It's just another case of Luger's inflated ego getting in the way of the facts.

Luger is just a pompous blowhard. If he was ever going to win the World title, he would've done it by now.

ANTHONY TIMMONS
St. Paul, MN

TORRENTIAL MONSOON

I think Gorilla Monsoon's commentary on WWF wrestling programs is despicable. He makes my stomach turn!

Where the hell does he get off insulting a great wrestler like Lanny Poffo? He had the nerve to call him a sick person and a horrible waste of talent. What Monsoon fails to realize is that Poffo held many major titles before entering the WWF. Monsoon now knocks the same skills that Poffo has always had, and he's doing it simply because Poffo has turned rulebreaker.

Furthermore, can he prove that Bobby Heenan steals money from his wrestlers? It's obvious that Monsoon continues to attack Heenan because of his personal differences with him. A sports announcer is supposed to be unbiased and neutral, like Lord Alfred Hays.

Talk a walk, Gorilla. You are, in your own words, "a piece of garbage"!

CARL LEITZ
Ringwood, NJ

PEREZ PROBLEMS

The article in the May '90 issue summed up Al Perez' current problems most succinctly ("The Painful Lesson Al Perez Must Learn: The First Months In The WWF Are The Hardest"). Newcomers to the WWF, no matter how talented, are always subject to some pretty rough treatment.

Perez is not alone in finding that the WWF is hard on people who are trying to make their mark. In recent months, Pez Whatley, Black Bart, Scott Hall, and Buddy Rose, all good
(Continued on page 46)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Stu
Saks

Editor-in-Chief

Remember the uproar last football season when Dallas Cowboys' coach Jimmy Johnson charged that Philadelphia Eagles' coach Buddy Ryan had put a bounty on the heads of his players Luis Zendejas and Troy Aikman?

Ryan may or may not have placed a bounty on those players; we'll probably never know. What we do know is that the mere accusation was the talk of the football world—the only talk of the football world—for about three weeks.

In the sport of wrestling, things are a little different.

Johnathan Holliday places a bounty on the head of Pacific Northwest champion Curtis Thompson and it doesn't get much more attention than a line or two in Bill Apter's "Names Makin' News."

Holliday's promising career was cut short recently by a serious injury to his left wrist. Doctors say they will have to insert some sort of metal rod into the wrist and that Holliday should never wrestle again. Holliday, while declining to cite specifics, blames Thompson for the injury. He initially offered \$5,000 to anyone who could cripple the young champion, then upped the offer to \$6,000.

Those of us who have followed wrestling closely for a number of years don't get too excited about this. Maybe that's because so many bounties have been offered before and it's hard to recall an instance where somebody actually did what he had to do to collect.

But that's not to say that wrestlers haven't tried. And it's also not to say that somebody won't someday be successful.

They investigated Buddy Ryan and couldn't prove conclusively that he had offered a bounty. Johnathan Holliday, on the other hand, has gone public with his offer. The full weight of the powers that run our sport should come down on him and others who stoop to such sadistic measures.

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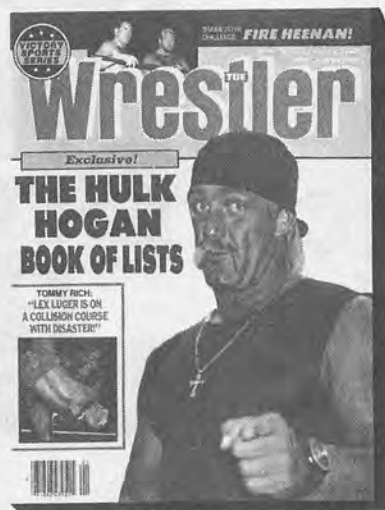
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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by **David
Rosenbaum**

IN HIS BOOK *Life On The Run*, former NBA star (now U.S. Senator from New Jersey) Bill Bradley devotes a good deal of space to the woes and pleasures of travel.

Bradley, who is extremely intelligent and interested in culture, managed to pass the time on the road by visiting museums and going to concerts, but he still found himself with plenty of time to kill.

My thoughts turned to Bradley because a recent change in my duties at *The Wrestler* resulted in a change in my travel schedule, too. During my first four years here, I spent most of my time in the office and traveled not more than three or four days a month.

Now I find myself in two or three different towns every week. And this experience—fulfilling as it has been—has given me a new respect for professional wrestlers.

They're in a different town every day. They travel from city to city, sometimes from coast to coast, and then are expected to get into the ring and give 100 percent against some of the greatest athletes in the world.

In between, they're left with hours and hours of free time in cities they've been to tens, if not hundreds, of times before. Such is the life of a professional wrestler. Having lived a similar—but not quite as rugged—life for the past three months, I can only ask one question: How do they do it?

"It's not easy," said Sting, who is now going through an unwanted break from the travel schedule. "I've been in Baltimore 20 times, easily, and I've been to the Aquarium 10 of them. I know every inch of the Inner Harbor. I'd spend two or three hours a day working out, but that still leaves me with quite a bit of time. It can

(Continued on page 50)

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IN THE APRIL 2, 1990 edition of the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly* newsletter, I wrote an editorial pointing up what I called an "astonishing" rate of injuries in the NWA in recent months. Indeed, I was even able to construct a top 10 ratings list of injured NWA wrestlers.

"There's no doubt about it, NWA wrestling is the toughest wrestling in the world," said NWA TV champion Arn Anderson. "Other federations have different styles. Either the opposition isn't as tough, maybe there are more rookies than veterans, or the emphasis is on glitzy style more than athletic substance. But here . . . well, in the NWA it gets more rough and rugged than anywhere else I can think of."



Arn Anderson

Anderson knows about rough and rugged: A herniated disk in his back has kept him out of action for almost a month as of press time; pending a medical examination slated to take place after this magazine goes to press, there is the possibility that he could be out of action for as long as a year.

"It seems to me like everybody around here

has something to prove, and they wrestle that much harder to do it," said Sting, whose knee injury at the hands of Anderson and his Horsemen cohorts will keep him sidelined until at least mid-August. "But I think it's more than just the ruggedness of the NWA style, although that's a big factor. I mean, you take 10 different guys with 10 different injuries, and there are 10 different reasons for those injuries."

In Brian Pillman's case, Jim Cornette was the reason.

"Me and Tom [Zenk] were wrestling Cornette's Midnight Express," Pillman said in a raspy voice. "Cornette decided to get involved, as he usually does. Came into the ring after I was knocked out, put his tennis racket on my throat, and Bobby Eaton jumped off the top rope onto me. Bruised me in a couple of places, but I was lucky; I didn't miss any action. Cornette and his goons *won't* be so lucky."

"Luck has absolutely nothing to do with it," Cornette counters. "Look, wrestling is a tough sport, everybody knows that coming in. If you can't handle the heat, get out of the kitchen, you know what I mean? If guys like

ON THE ROAD

with
CRAIG PETERS

Pillman and Sting are too delicate for the ring, well, that's their problem."

But Cornette isn't immune to the ravages of injury, either. Stan Lane, one-half of Cornette's Midnight Express, has been the object of conflicting reports in recent weeks, most of which indicate that he is suffering from some form of neck injury. When Cornette was asked about Lane's injury, he was evasive: "Sure, Stan has missed a few matches, but he had some personal business to take care of.

He needed a couple of days off, that's

all. No problem, absolutely no problem."

Oddly enough, there are wrestlers in the NWA who are actually *happy* about the recent rash of injuries.

"Survival of the fittest, that's professional wrestling," said Cactus Jack, who, considering the amount of punishment he typically absorbs in any given match, seems to flirt with permanent dismemberment on almost a daily basis. "Let me tell you a little secret. Let's say I'm rated number seven, and numbers five and six get injured and sidelined. Guess who moves up two notches in the ratings? *Hahaha!*"

Norman may be the one NWA wrestler who has benefited most from Cactus Jack's dirty secret. Rated number 10 in our May issue, Norman moved up to number five last issue, and is holding firm at number three this month—right behind the NWA World and U.S. champions. But Norman takes no pleasure in gaining fortune through others' misfortunes.



Norman

"I'm glad I'm moving up in the ratings," Norman said. "I like that, my friends like that, but I wish there weren't so many people always getting hurt. I don't understand. I don't get it. Why does everybody have to hurt everybody? Why can't we just wrestle each other?"

"Because there's too much money, too much prestige, and too much personal pride riding on each and every match," says Sid Vicious, formerly a member of Teddy Long's Skyscrapers and currently fighting to return to action after surgery to repair a punctured lung. "Ain't no crap in the NWA, just a man and his guts in the ring, that's all. Beat or be beaten, it's that simple."

And that dangerous. □

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#6 MONSTERS OF THE MAT Volume 7

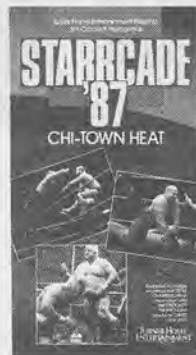
Hosted by Sgt. Slaughter, mat fans will experience action like never before! Get your ringside seat for all the spills and thrills as Ted DiBiase takes on Magnum T.A.; The Shepherders & Jack Victory meet The Fantastics & Terry Taylor; and Brett Sawyer battles Gustavo Mendoza.

\$39.95/62 Min. U.S.A Sports Video

#7 WRESTLE WAR '90 Wild Thing

Lex Luger could have won the NWA World title from Ric Flair, but saving Sting from a crippling attack from the Andersons took priority! On this night, Luger showed the fans just what's inside the "Total Package." Also: Steiners vs. Andersons, Road Warriors vs. Skyscrapers, more.

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#8 STARRCADE '87

Chi-Town Heat

The hottest Thanksgiving Day in Windy City history! CAGE MATCH THRILLERS: Ric Flair challenges NWA champ Ronnie Garvin;

Dusty Rhodes takes on U.S. champ Lex Luger. PLUS: Road Warriors vs. Blanchard & Anderson; Koloff vs. Taylor; Rock 'n' Rolls vs. Midnight on a scaffold; Williams vs. Windham; Garvin, Hayes, & Sting vs. Gilbert, Zbyszko, & Steiner.

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#9 STARRCADE '86 The Sky-Walkers

So big it had to be held in two locations—The Omni in Atlanta and the Greensboro Coliseum in North Carolina. Highlights include: NWA champ Ric Flair vs. Nikita Koloff; Road Warriors vs. Midnight on a scaffold; "First Blood" match—Rhodes vs. Blanchard; Ron Garvin vs. Big (Bossman) Bubba; Rock 'n' Rolls vs. Andersons in cage; Jones vs. Valiant—hair vs. hair.

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#10 STARRCADE '88 True Gritt

The sixth annual Starrcade event, the first under the Ted Turner banner, thrilled a sellout crowd at The Scope in Virginia. Featured: Lex Luger's challenge of Ric Flair; Road Warriors vs. Sting & Rhodes; Windham vs. Bigelow; Rotundo vs. Rick Steiner; Midnight vs. Midnight; and more.

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NAMES MAKING

WRESTLEMANIA VI SAW a complete shifting of the WWF World title power base: **The Ultimate Warrior** captured the WWF World heavy-weight title from **Hulk Hogan**, and **Demolition** downed **Andre the Giant & Haku** to regain the WWF World tag team championship.



WARRIOR VS. HOGAN

Warrior pinned Hogan at the 22:51 mark of a match that, in almost every respect, could not have been more evenly fought. The pinfall was uncontroversial, coming after a Warrior splash that followed a missed legdrop by the "Hulkster."

After the match, Hogan handed Warrior the WWF World championship belt in a show of sportsmanship that leads me to believe there will not be a series of rematches between the two men.

Then again, when Hogan starts getting uncomfortable with being a contender instead of a champion, he may demand such a series; we'll see.

A personal note: I have to confess that I was shocked by the Warrior's title victory. I had picked Hogan to win the match, and I really thought that Hulkamania would once again prevail. But even though he lost, Hogan has no reason to be embarrassed by his effort in this match, which will go down in wrestling history as one of the most significant and memorable the sport has ever seen.

Demolition's win came at the 9:15 mark when **Ax** pinned Haku following a "Demolition decapitation." Demolition dominated the bout from the opening bell, and succeeded in preventing Haku, who started the match for his team, from ever tagging out to Andre.

Andre and Haku had held the belts since winning them from Ax and **Smash** on December 13, 1989, in



ANDRE THE GIANT VS. AX

Huntsville, Alabama. Demolition's victory marks the beginning of their third WWF World title reign.

The rest of the card saw the following results: **Dusty Rhodes & Sapphire** downed **Randy Savage & Sensational Sherri** in 7:32 when Sapphire pinned Sherri ... **Ted DiBiase** downed **Jake Roberts** by count-out in 11:56 to regain his "million-dollar belt" ... **Roddy Piper** and **Bad News Brown** battled to a dou-



BAD NEWS BROWN

ble-countout in 6:48 ... **Brutus Beefcake** pinned **Curt Hennig** in 7:48 ... **Big Bossman** squashed **Akeem** in 1:49 ... **The Hart Foundation** downed **The Bolsheviks** in just 19 seconds when **Bret Hart** pinned **Boris Zuhov** ... **Earthquake** pinned **Hercules** in 4:52 ... **The Orient Express** defeated **The Rockers** in 7:38 when **Marty Jannetty** was counted out of the ring; he was unable to return to the action because **Akio Sato** had thrown salt in his eyes ... **Koko B. Ware** submitted to **Rick Martel's** Boston crab at the 5:31 mark ... **Rick Rude** pinned **Jimmy Snuka** at 3:51 following a

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...



JIM CORNETTE

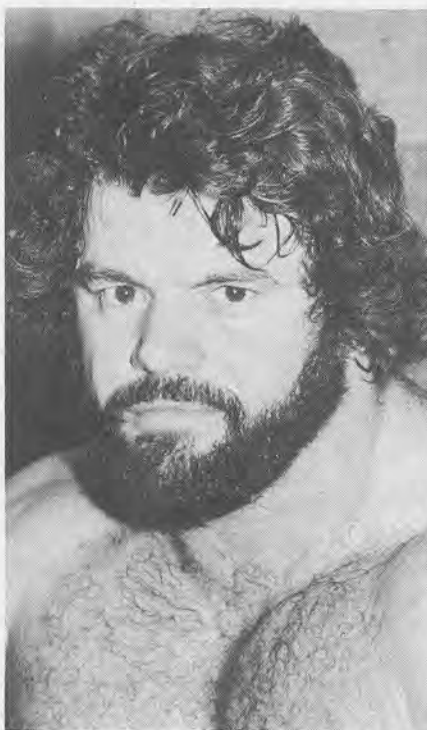
reverse neckbreaker ... **Hacksaw Duggan** gained a pinfall over **Dino Bravo** at 4:15 after smashing him in the head with his 2x4 ... **The Barbarian** pinned **Tito Santana** at 4:33 following a clothesline from the top rope.

The Four Horsemen received some bad news when it was revealed that **Arn Anderson** may be out for a year due to a herniated disk in the back. **Midnight Express** manager **Jim Cornette**, eager to help out his associates, has offered to lease the services of **Stan Lane** and **Bobby Eaton** to the Horsemen, but **Woman** flatly turned him down. "I don't know what her problem is," Cornette told *Inside Wrestling*. "The Horsemen need all the help they can get right now. I'm just trying to be a nice guy, like I always am. Jeez! Try to help some people!"

Carlos Colon won the WWC Universal title—the ninth of his career—with a victory over archrival **Abdullah the Butcher** on March 31 in San

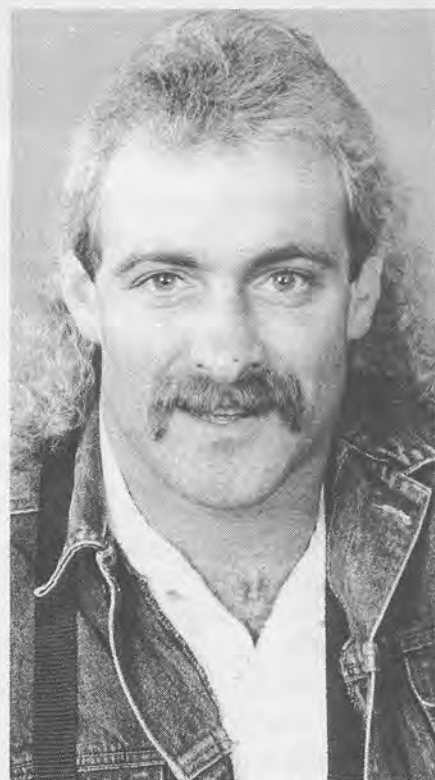
Juan, Puerto Rico. Abdullah had just won the belt from **TNT** a week earlier.

In other news from Puerto Rico, **The Super Medics** won the WWC tag team title from **The Mercenaries** ... The Pacific Northwest title has been held up due to controversy in a match between champion **Curtis Thompson** and **Scotty the Body** on March 30 in Eugene, Oregon ... **Billy Jack Haynes** is back in the PNW to seek revenge on **Bryan Adams**, the man who injured his neck nearly four months ago.



BILLY JACK HAYNES

Lou Winston, who left the sport when his partner **Jerry Bryant** contracted Lou Gehrig's disease, has returned to the CWA with **Ronald Gossett** as his manager. Winston and Bryant were known as **Memphis Vice**. Speaking of Gossett, the rotund manager has been advising USWA champion **Jerry Lawler** in recent matches.



MAGNUM T.A.

Magnum T.A., whose wrestling career was ended in a 1986 automobile accident that left him partially paralyzed, was scheduled to have decompression surgery on his spinal cord on April 3 in Miami, Florida. The surgery was set to be performed by **Dr. Barth Green**, who determined there was compression on the spinal cord and the adjoining nerves.

"I'm hoping this surgery will give me more mobility and help me recover more quickly," Magnum said.

A quick editorial note: "Names Makin' News," "Official Wrestling Ratings," and "Roll Call Of Champions" were held back for a few extra days this month in order to bring you **WrestleMania VI** results; the rest of the magazine went to press *before* **WrestleMania**.

That's all for now, fans. See you at the matches! □

THE

INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

BOBO BRAZIL GREETs me at the front door dressed comfortably in jeans and a T-shirt. I keep reminding myself that this man is 61 years old, has been beating on people—and been beaten upon himself—since 1951. I keep looking for the stooped walk, the slur of words, or the uncooperative muscle tic that might betray 39 years of constant punishment.

What I see instead is a man of purposeful stride and intellect; years of triumph have lent a regal bearing to Brazil's presentation. He remains a humble man of simple tastes, uncomfortable that his record (in more than 11,000 matches, his winning percentage is an astounding .843) has forced him into the company of legends. As he reclines on his couch, I see a father of 13 children, grandfather to a small town, who could say he's 45 and no one would think to question him—a fact (all the victories and title belts notwithstanding) that is perhaps Brazil's most remarkable achievement.

As I reported in a full-length piece in the Summer 1990 edition of *Wrestling 90* magazine, Brazil talks sparingly, reserving his words for important matters in much the same way he used the



Bobo Brazil has been wrestling since 1951. When Eddie Ellner interviewed the legendary grappler, he discovered how Brazil's remained active for so long.

cocobutt, his classic offensive maneuver, throughout his career.

"Make 'em count," Bobo says to me, referring, I suppose, to every element of his life. "Life can end in so many unexpected ways you'd be a fool not to make every moment count."

Hoping for a reaction, I remove a rare spool of videotape I am lucky to have. Bobo allows me to play it on his machine. The tape is of an early 1972 match between Brazil and his lifelong nemesis, The Sheik. What makes it

particularly rare is the beating Brazil took during the match.

On that night, The Sheik was at his most violent and sadistic. While his manager, Abdullah Farouk, distracted the referee, Sheik hurled a fireball into Brazil's face. I watch Brazil for a reaction. He remains impassive as he watches The Sheik tear parts of his arm open with his teeth.

"Watch this," Brazil says suddenly. In his desperation to continue the carnage, Sheik pushed past the referee, latched onto Brazil's head, and carved out parts of Brazil's scalp with his sharpened nails.

"Rewind that a bit," Brazil orders. I comply, wondering why Brazil wishes to relive the bloody attack. As The Sheik once again pushed by the referee en route to Brazil's head, I am told to freeze the frame.

"You see that?" Bobo asks, clearly excited for the first time since I arrived. Unfortunately, I don't see anything.

"You think Sheik is just pushing the ref out of the way," Brazil explains. "What he is really doing is retrieving a steel scalpel Farouk had planted on the ref in the dressing room. Farouk used to pay a locker room attendant to place a foreign object on the ref's collar before the officials changed. That way, the ref couldn't find a foreign object on Sheik in the prematch frisk. The blade would be on the referee himself. And at

(Continued on page 52)



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A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER

THEY DON'T ORDER the dinner; they eat a la carte. They don't follow rules; they invent their own. Call them the Nomads of Wrestling. Call them the Three Samurai. Call them anything you please, as long as you keep paying them to beat people up.

Bruiser Brody, Stan Hansen, and Bam Bam Bigelow are definitely rebels with causes.

Many questioned Brody and Hansen's wisdom when they "seceded" from U.S. rings years ago for greener Japanese pastures. But several title belts—and several million dollars—have silenced their most outspoken critics. And it's clear the two veterans have influenced the career of one of today's high-impact wrestlers, Bam Bam Bigelow.

The late, great Brody was the first to sidestep the big paw of the major federations and successfully negotiate his own matches. Most wrestlers, especially a top star like Brody, relied on their managers or business agents to deal with promoters. It's not all dollars and sense. Besides per diem expenses and match purses, agents negotiate for title bouts (and bonuses that accompany title belts), and for escape clauses that permit wrestlers to withdraw from long-running feuds or leave the promotion altogether.

Of course, promoters are notorious for not giving away ice in the winter. For every concession they grant, they insist on three in return. And since the promoters rent the arenas and sign the pay-



Bruiser Brody was one of the first stars to call his own shots when it came to deciding who and where he would wrestle. He was also one of the first American grapplers to hit it big in Japan, where he battled the likes of Giant Baba.

checks, wrestlers, without benefit of a union, usually capitulate to their demands.

Then Brody arrived. Veteran Texas referee Bronco Lubich recalls contract talks that took place between a young Brody and several wily promoters. "Brody came in with all his hair and his bolo and wild-looking poncho. Everyone who had seen him wrestle

knew he was going to be a big attraction. The two promoters wink at me and say how their gonna lock his butt into a long-term deal and sit back and watch him make them money.

"Anyway, Brody hands them both copies of a contract he had written up, complete with bonuses and guaranteed purses and per-

(Continued on page 54)

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

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March 1987

March 1988



March 1989

March 1990

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Two remarkable anniversary celebrations were marked with magnificent once-in-a-lifetime 100-page issues of *PWI*. **December 1987**: Our 100th issue! Nineteen pages of full color! Features include: The 10 Most Influential Wrestlers of the *PWI* Years, The 10 Greatest Events of the *PWI* Years, "Unofficial Official Awards" of the *PWI* Years, Behind The Scenes at *PWI*, and much more! **September 1989**: Sensational 10th anniversary issue! Eighteen pages of full color! Features include: Special Analysis: 12 Who Made A Difference, 10th Anniversary Book of Lists, *PWI* Superstats, a look back to our first issue, and much more!



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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

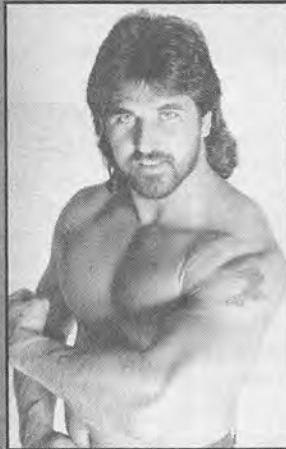
Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



DON KERNODLE

This underrated grappler captured the NWA World tag team title three times during the '80s (with Sgt. Slaughter, Bob Orton, and Ivan Koloff). Today, Kernodle is busy with his flourishing real estate business in the Carolinas and Virginia.

He is also negotiating to wrestle for the North American Wrestling Association, a new federation based in the Carolinas. "I still love getting in the ring," said Kernodle, who last competed in the ACW during 1989.



WENDELL COOLEY

The man known as "Wildcat" is currently competing for Southeast Championship Wrestling, an organization based in Alabama. The former Continental and CWA champion recently wrestled in a series of

matches against rugged veteran Pat Rose. Cooley's latest goal is to win the upcoming tournament to determine the first Southeast champion. "It's been too long since I held a title," said the scientific favorite.



OWEN HART

The high-flying second-generation star recently completed his first tour of Mexico, where he wrestled for the Universal Wrestling Association. He also excelled during a foray to Japan, where he was undefeated against many of the

Orient's top stars. His next stop? Back to Stampede in his hometown of Calgary, Alberta. "I'm very anxious to get a shot at Larry Cameron's North American title," said Hart. "I held that belt before, and I can do it again."



GENE ANDERSON

The leader of the famous Anderson family was a former NWA World tag team champion with his brother Ole. Now retired from the mat wars, Gene currently works for the NWA as a TV production assistant. He's also busy training his

son, Brad Anderson, an improving young grappler. "I'm proud that the Andersons are the greatest name ever in this sport," said Gene. "Arn, Ole, and Brad are carrying on the tradition of excellence I started."

INSIDE WRESTLING

168

CAPSULE PROFILE

RANDY "MACHO KING" SAVAGE may not be a world champion anymore, but he remains a major force in the WWF ... Is the son of legendary high-flying grappler Angelo Poffo and the older brother of Lanny Poffo (*"A proud family tradition"*) ... Played minor-league baseball from 1971 to 1976, but longed for a career in wrestling (*"Talented enough to do both"*) ... To circumvent contractual baseball obligations, wrestled under a mask as "The Spider" (*"That was a tough balancing act"*) ... In 1976, stopped playing baseball and devoted himself to a full-time wrestling career (*"A career that would skyrocket"*) ... Ole Anderson gave Randy Poffo the name Randy Savage because, Ole said, "he wrestled like a savage!" ... On July 21, 1979, Savage defeated his brother Lanny for the International Championship Wrestling title ... Successfully defended the title until 1983 (*"A long and glorious reign"*) ... Went to the Mid-Southern area, where he wrestled under the management of Jimmy Hart (*"A man who really knows his stuff"*) ... Held the Mid-Southern title on several occasions (*"Jerry Lawler stole the belt on several occasions"*) ... In the summer of 1985, went to the WWF, touching off a managerial bidding war for his services (*"Everybody wanted the 'Macho*

RANDY SAVAGE

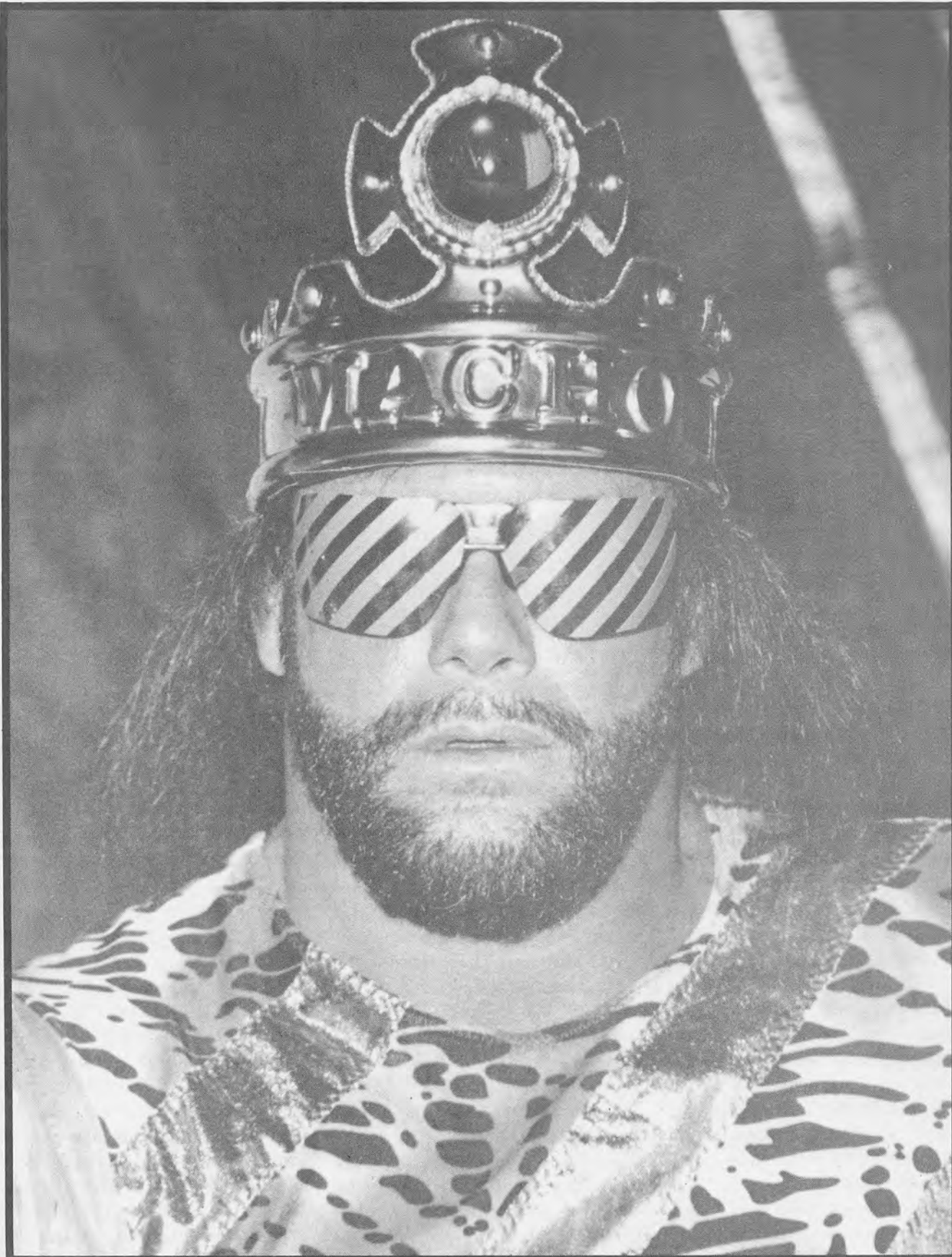


Brutus Beefcake gets the royal treatment from "Macho King" Randy Savage. In his fabulous career, Savage has held many titles, most recently the WWF World and Intercontinental belts. His latest feud is with "American Dream" Dusty Rhodes.

Man'") ... Shocked everyone when he chose Elizabeth (*"The most beautiful woman they'd ever seen"*) ... Had a series of matches against WWF World champion Hulk Hogan (*"He barely withstood the assault"*) ... Captured the Intercontinental title from Tito Santana on February 6, 1986, in Boston (*"A straight right hand from the 'Macho Man' sent Santana to the promised land"*) ... Lost the belt to Rick Steamboat in a classic match at WrestleMania III on March 29, 1987 ... Became friends with Hogan (*"He had a few good ideas"*) ... With Hogan's help, won the WrestleMania IV World title tournament on April 2, 1988, with a final-round victory over Ted DiBiase (*"Destiny had been met"*) ... As The Megapowers, Savage and

Hogan defeated DiBiase and Andre the Giant at SummerSlam '88 (*"How could the 'Powers lose?"*) ... On February 3, 1989, Savage and Hogan had a dramatic breakup after Elizabeth was accidentally hurt during their match against The Twin Towers (*"That phony was just after the belt"*) ... Lost the World title to Hogan at WrestleMania V on April 2, 1989 (*"Damn!"*) ... Sensational Sherri became his valet (*"A more stunning—and cunning—woman than Elizabeth"*) ... Won the unofficial title of WWF "King" from Hacksaw Duggan on August 30, 1989 (*"And a glorious kingdom it is"*) ... Is currently engaged in a nasty feud with "American Dream" Dusty Rhodes (*"That commoner is gonna be crowned with a fist!"*)

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



RANDY SAVAGE

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NEWS FROM THE

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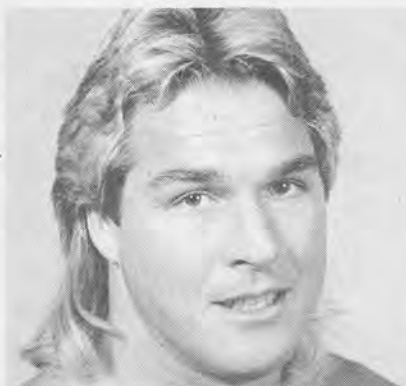
Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571

PITTSBURGH, PA

By Larry Ervin



**THE BARBARIAN
vs.
TERRY TAYLOR**



The Barbarian, now under the tutelage of Bobby Heenan, used his size and strength to keep Taylor off-balance early in the bout. Taylor, who was once managed by Heenan, stunned Barbarian with a series of right hands and attempted a flying bodypress, but Barbarian caught him in mid-air, gave him a powerslam, and scored the pin.

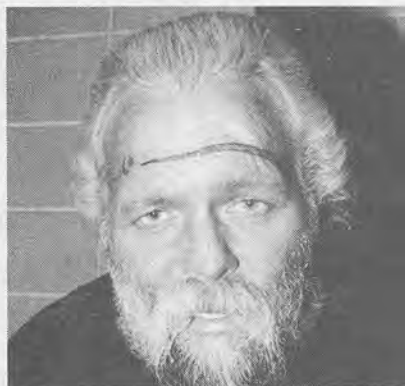
OTHER BOUTS: The Orient Express defeated Paul Roma & Scott Hall ... Buddy Rose pinned Koko B. Ware ... Earthquake defeated Reno Riggins ... Big Bossman pinned Black Bart ... The Rockers defeated Al Perez & Pez Whatley ... Rick Martel pinned Brutus Beefcake.

MEMPHIS, TN

By Dennis Williamson



**JERRY LAWLER
vs.
JIMMY VALIANT**

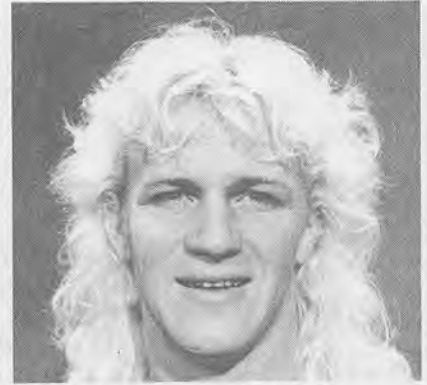


Valiant managed to get Lawler in the sleeper, but Lawler tossed Valiant into the referee to break the hold and took a chain out of his boot. When The Goon, Valiant's manager, got up on the ring apron, Lawler hit him with the chain. Nate the Rat, whom Lawler fired two days ago, ran to the ring as Lawler was about to smash Valiant. As the ref recovered, Lawler ran after Nate. Valiant snuck up on Lawler and rolled him into a small package for the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Sweet Daddy Falcone beat Ben Johnson ... King Cobra beat The Soultaker ... Robert Fuller and Brian Lee were both counted out ... Rex King & Steve Doll beat Dirty White Boy & Rockin' Randy ... Bill Dundee beat Terrance M. Garvin by DQ ... Jeff Jarrett pinned Billy Travis.

DALLAS, TX

By John Ruppert



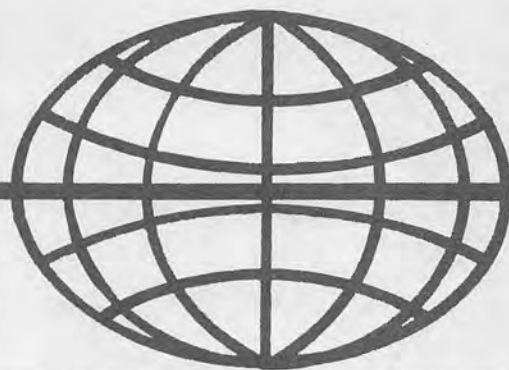
**JEFF JARRETT
vs.
BILLY TRAVIS**



This was a *boxing* match scheduled for 10 rounds. Jarrett was seconded by Bill Dundee, and Travis was accompanied by Terrance Garvin, who brought a bucket filled with water to the ring. In the third round, Garvin dipped Travis' gloved hand in the bucket, hoping that soaking up a lot of water would make the glove heavier. After Travis took a swing at Jarrett and missed, Dundee put Jarrett's hand in the bucket. Jarrett hit Travis hard and knocked him out.

OTHER BOUTS: The Southern Rockers defeated Gary Young & Sheik Braddock ... Iceman Parsons defeated Jimmy Jack Funk ... Jeff Gaylord & Steve Austin beat Chris Adams & Matt Borne ... Chris Champion drew with Chris Youngblood ... John Tatum pinned Kevin Von Erich ... Bill Dundee defeated Terrance Garvin.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



BAYOMAN, P R By Edward Callessa



**TNT
vs.
ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**



Abdullah attacked TNT with his teeth and with a foreign object. Somehow, TNT made a comeback and was able to get the object away from the Sudanese madman. He dug the weapon deep into Abdullah's face, opening several ghastly wounds and forcing the blood to pour. The referee tried to get both grapplers to stop trying to destroy each other, but they knocked him down. Abdullah threw TNT out of the ring and they battled all the way back to the dressing room.

OTHER BOUTS: Carlos Colon defeated The Dragon Master ... Invader I & Invader IV drew with The Hunters ... The Mercenaries and The Super Medics battled to a double-DQ ... Leo Burke beat Pierre Martel ... Hurricane Castillo Jr. beat Eddie Watts ... Rick Valentine beat Victor Jovica.

ROCHESTER, MN By Roger Olander



**NIKITA KOLOFF
vs.
LARRY ZBYSZKO**



This match was a best-of-three-falls bout; the winner would become the number-one contender for the AWA World title held by Mr. Saito. Zbyszko won the first fall with a rollup, and Koloff won the second fall with a backslide. In the third fall, when Zbyszko was choking Koloff, special referee Bob Lurtsema pulled Zbyszko away by the hair. Koloff followed up with a Russian sickle and scored the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: "Yukon" John Nord pinned The Annihilator ... Col. DeBeers beat Todd Becker ... D.J. Peterson beat Frankie DiFalco ... The Destruction Crew beat Curtis Hughes & The Cobra ... Jake Milliman beat The Russian Brute ... Brad Rheingans pinned Jimmy Magnum ... Tommy Jammer beat Tom Stone.

WEST PALM BEACH, FL By Wanda Wilson

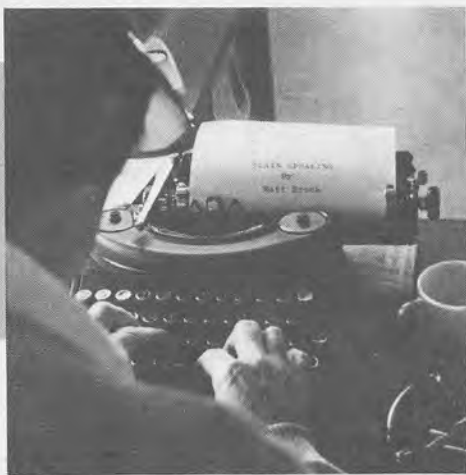


**DUSTY RHODES
vs.
RANDY SAVAGE**



This battle between the "American Dream" and the "Macho King" was the evening's most anticipated match. It ended up with both men battling furiously outside the ring. Rhodes managed to roll in before the referee completed his count. Afterward, Dusty's manager, Sapphire, and Savage's manager, Sensational Sherri, got into a battle. Sherri choked Sapphire, but Sapphire made a comeback, choking Sherri and sending her scurrying from the ring!

OTHER BOUTS: The Rockers & Hercules defeated The Powers of Pain & Mr Fuji ... Roddy Piper defeated Rick Rude ... Al Perez pinned Terry Taylor ... Mark Young pinned Rico Fedrico ... Rick Martel pinned Brutus Beefcake.



Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

MIAMI, FL: Down in the land of the walking wounded. Not Miami, the NWA. Anybody who pays to see an NWA card these days isn't getting the entire package, thanks to a little bug called "injury" that's threatened to wipe out the federation just when it was ready to roll. Well, there's still enough talent to go around, and as long

after the matches, ran into some of the wrestlers, and saw Scott Steiner digging into a thick steak. Surprised me. Thought he cared about what he put into his body, but I guess even those in the best shape sometimes put themselves at a disadvantage. "A little protein never hurt anybody," Scott said, but I told him that a lot of cholesterol hurts everyone. The fact is that wrestlers with the best diet rarely get injured. Forget about working out and all that. Eat right and your body takes care of itself. Of course, it's really hard to blame wrestlers for what they eat. When you're on the road 300 days a year, it's hard to control what you put into your body. Still, maybe it's time for the wrestlers to do a little more controlling.

DALLAS, TX: Somebody changed the rules of wrestling again. Kerry Von Erich put his USWA Texas title on the line against The Soultaker, but the belt was attached to the top rope and whoever walked out with it got to keep it. Ridiculous. Pin and you win, get pinned and you lose. Possession, in this case, is zero percent of the law. As expected, everything got out of order. Billy Travis ran



ARN ANDERSON

as Rick and Scott Steiner have the NWA tag belts, there'll be people at the matches. But about those injuries . . . you have to wonder whether it has anything to do with diet. Now, I know Sting was attacked by The Four Horsemen, but how about all the rest? They say Lex Luger has a sprained ankle, Arn Anderson has a herniated disk, Buzz Sawyer's nursing an injured left hand, Dan Spivey has a hurt neck, Sid Vicious is still out with a punctured lung—and this is only a partial list. Went out



KERRY VON ERICH

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

out, grabbed the belt, and ran back to the dressing room with it, claiming it was his. Now how about this: He almost got away with this act of thievery! After all, Von Erich put his belt out there for the taking. In the end, the USWA ordered Travis to give the belt back, but I hope the USWA learned a lesson: Novelty matches can be entertaining sometimes, but there has to be some thinking going into the process when a title is concerned. "It was the ultimate challenge," Kerry said. "I put my belt out there and challenged him to take it," Well, that's admirable of Kerry, but the rules are, as I said, pin and you win, get pinned and you lose. This is wrestling, not tug-of-war.

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND: Saks told me to take a trip overseas. Thought he meant Japan. Handed me the plane ticket and it said New Zealand. Thought he made a mistake. Checked again and it turned out he didn't (for a change). A Sheepherders feature? Maybe a story on rulebreakers in the land where everybody once was one? Guess again. "Don Muraco vs. Abughdadien. Wrestling at the Wellington Town Hall." Now, this was a match I could have seen in the United States (if I even wanted to see this match), but New Zealand wrestling fans are something everybody should have to see for themselves. Of course, to see these people, you have to take a flight that makes the trip to Japan look like a walk

around the block. If wrestling ever catches on here in a big way, it won't be with American wrestlers. They're gonna have to come up with their own crop. Of course, the folks down under have cultivated some pretty good grapplers, men like Bill Dundee and The Sheepherders. This is a tough land with tough people. It can make for some tough wrestling. Tough fans, too. They cheered their heads off for Muraco, although I'd swear a decent (or indecent) portion where rooting for Abughdadien. Talked to one fan and asked him what he liked about wrestling. "The bloody violence," he said. So much for the sweet science. Talked to Muraco afterward and asked him how he liked coming to New Zealand. "It's unusual," he said. "Nothing at all like Japan or any of the European countries. But that plane trip..." As for Abughdadien, I didn't bother talking to him. He was too busy signing autographs.

TORONTO, ONTARIO: Almost hate to say this, but Toronto might be the wrestling capital of the world. What other city has twice drawn crowds of over 70,000 for wrestling? None. What other town caught wrestling fever and never, ever let go? None. This, especially, is the home of "Hulkamania," and as I walked around town days before the big event—that's WrestleMania VI, in case you've forgotten already—I was amazed at how many people, young and old, were wearing Hulk Hogan shirts. I say amazed because Hogan is an American institution, but he's been adopted by Canadians as one of their own. "Good is good," one middle-aged woman said. That makes some sense. There's also talk here about making the SkyDome the permanent home of WrestleMania, just like there's always been talk about a permanent Super Bowl site. Won't happen. If Donald Trump couldn't keep WrestleMania in Atlantic City, Toronto can't keep it in the SkyDome. Besides, every major arena in the world, stretching from Los Angeles to Japan, seems to want this show. It's really amazing how so many people are fascinated by the WWF. The NWA has the better wrestling and the better wrestlers, but the WWF just keeps packing them in. There's no accounting for taste. Well, I'll keep waiting for the Starrcades and the Great American Bashes, praying for the occasional good WWF show, and bearing it all through one WrestleMania after another. Well, at least it's a good party. □



DON MURACO

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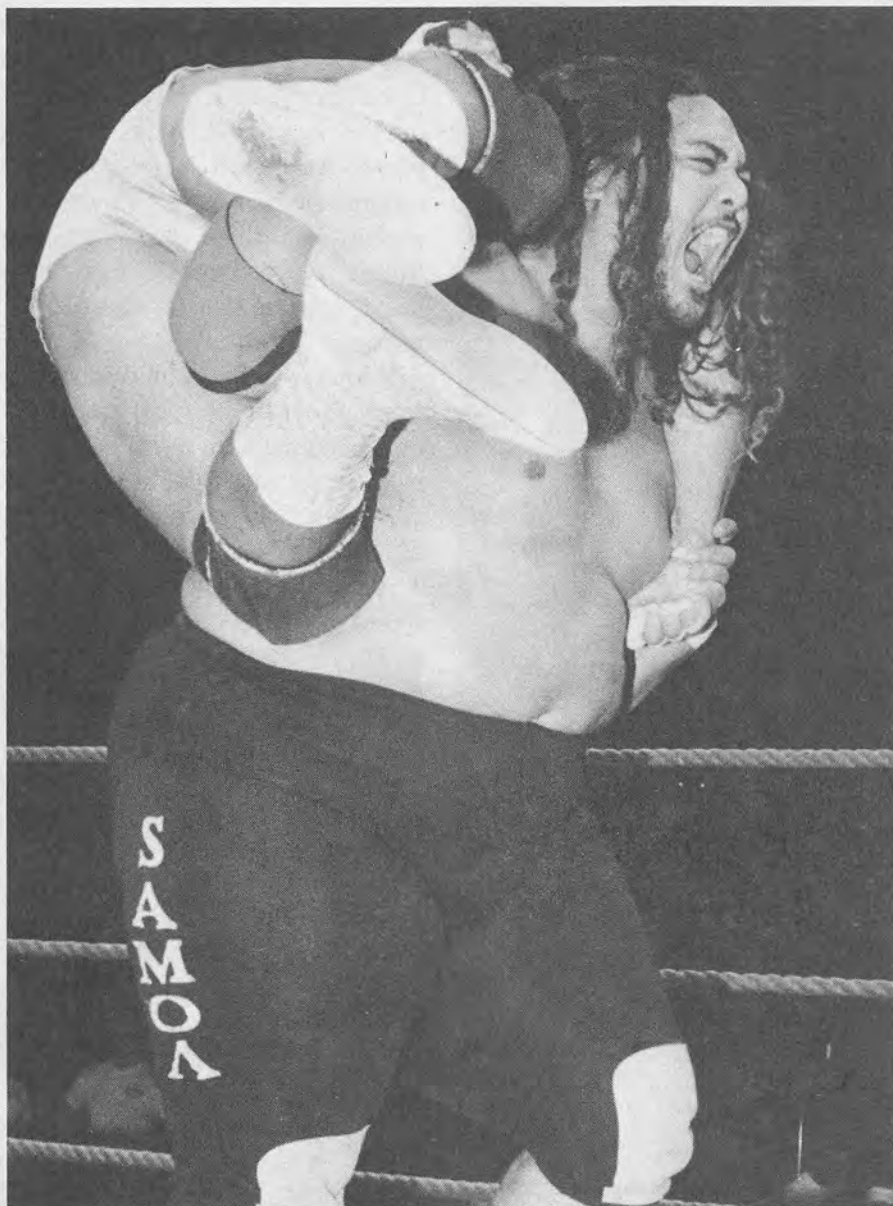
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KOKINA MAXIMUS:



Kokina Maximus executes the Samoan drop on Pete Sanchez with brutal efficiency. This 340-pound bruiser may be on the verge of superstardom.

The AWA knows what the rest of the wrestling world ought to: Kokina Maximus is an awesome competitor. It's only a matter of time before he's a worldwide mat celebrity!

By Dave Rosenbaum

QUICK: NAME THE wrestler who is credited with having run second-generation AWA star Greg Gagne out of the sport.

Quick: Name the wrestler who, though he's 6'3" tall and weighs 340 pounds, can throw a dropkick with nearly the grace—and with greater power—of Brian Pillman or Marty Jannetty.

Quick: Name the wrestler whose feud with "Mr. Wonderful" Paul Orndorff was won so brutally, rumors of Orndorff's death quickly spread throughout the wrestling world.

Be honest, now. If his name wasn't splashed across the top of this page in giant letters, would you *really* have known that it was Kokina Maximus who has done all these things?

"Kokina Maximus is the best-kept secret in professional wrestling today," boasts Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie, who

WRESTLING'S UNKNOWN SUPERSTAR



Kokina's devastating big splash (above) has disabled several opponents. Sgt. Slaughter has locked up with the Samoan (right) and can testify to his ability.

manages Kokina in the AWA. "I am not overstating the case when I say that Kokina will far surpass the achievements of any big man the sport has ever seen."

Kokina brings back memories of a young Jerry Blackwell. Though he weighed nearly 400 pounds, he, too, was extremely light on his feet. But those who remember Blackwell and have seen Kokina say that the young Samoan is far more agile than Blackwell—and far more versatile.

"Kokina possesses remarkable talents for a man of his considerable

size," said four-time former AWA World heavyweight champion Nick Bockwinkel. "I think he actually drop-kicks better than Jerry did in his prime.

"But not only does Kokina drop-kick," Bockwinkel continued, "he has a devastating big splash. And there's a move he executes where he holds his foe in place like he would be setting up for an airplane spin, then drops back and slams the full force of his weight onto the opponent through his own upper body. He calls it the 'Samoan drop,' and it's as efficient a finisher as

any I've ever seen."

"There is no question that Kokina has all the raw tools necessary to go all the way to a world title," Al-Kaissie said. "The important factor for now is for him to get the proper seasoning. It is like raising a fine Arab riding horse. One doesn't want to rush the training, or the horse will be ruined. One doesn't want to train too slowly, or opportunities will be lost. Timing is everything, and will be everything, where Kokina is concerned. He is being raised, trained, and seasoned to perfection."

Kokina, who has been wrestling professionally since 1984, has wrestled in the Continental area and widely on the independent circuit as well as in the AWA. He has feuded with veterans like Orndorff and Sgt. Slaughter.

And he prefers not to speak with the press.





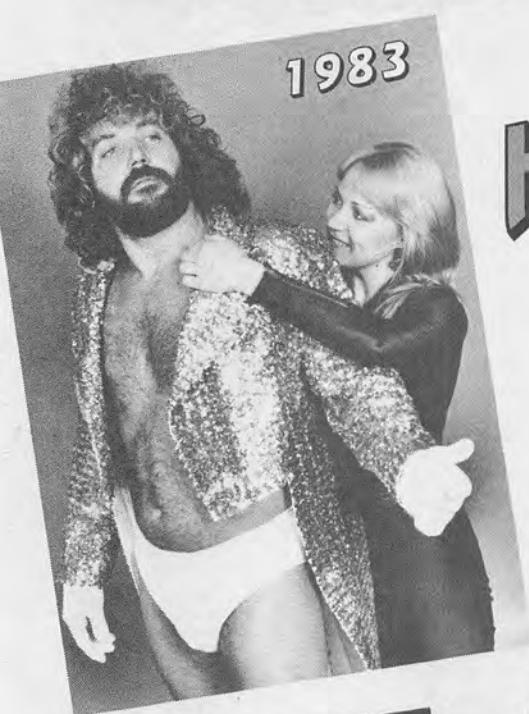
"The little bruddah is one man who knows what it is he wants to be doing," said Samoan Afa, who is Kokina's uncle, "and one thing he does not want to do is talk to any reporters. But me and Sika, we taught him a lot of things that he needs to know about the sport, and he is going to go very, very, very far, I can promise you that, this little bruddah has the Samoan spirit in him."

(Continued on page 56)

Maximus clotheslines Sanchez (top). The Samoan warns referee Gary DeRusha to stay out of his way (above). The Trooper has also felt the power of Kokina (right). Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie, Kokina's manager, is convinced the Samoan has a world title in his future.



TANTALIZING



Her Plan To Control Texas Wrestling



1983

Texas wrestling fans bemoan the day Jim Garvin ever met Sunshine. Together, Garvin and Sunshine unleash a reign of terror that confounds the Von Erichs, particularly David.

1984

Texas wrestling fans bemoan the day Garvin ever fired Sunshine and met Precious. Garvin and Precious wage a campaign against Chris Adams that makes his Von Erich campaign seem tame.

1985

Texas wrestling fans bemoan the day "Hollywood" John Tatum ever met Missy Hyatt. For almost a full year, Tatum and Hyatt hound Kevin Von Erich, Scott Casey, and other Texas favorites.

1990

Texas fans are moaning again. Tatum has returned, and a new feminine fire-brand—Tessa—is making her presence known alongside Texas rings.



TESSA

1990



Photos by Buddy Myers

By Bob Smith

TEXAS FANS ARE painfully familiar with the scenario: Egotistical wrestler finds fawning woman to tend to his every need—including match interference. Reign of terror follows.

Five years after introducing Missy Hyatt to the mat sport, “Hollywood” John Tatum is back . . . and you wouldn’t expect him to be alone, would you? Just take a gander at Tessa, his new valet.

“I’ve been out of the USWA for too long now,” Tatum said with a sly smile. “This time, I’ve got a woman standing in my corner who is more beautiful, more vivacious, and more talented than anybody I’ve ever been associated with. You can look all you want, guys, but don’t lay a finger on Tessa. She’s the most important woman I’ve ever been involved with.”

“Hollywood” John Tatum has struck again. The man who introduced Missy Hyatt to the wrestling world has unveiled Tessa, his latest valet. And she may well be the most dangerous woman the Lone Star State has ever seen!

If you ask the blonde what her background is or where she’s from, all you’ll get is a blank stare in return. Ask her about wrestling, though, and watch out.

“Forget Missy,” insists Tessa, batting her long eyelashes. “Woman is just a pretender. And Sensational Sherri doesn’t have half the managerial acumen that I do. I’m setting out to be the top woman in this sport. With a talented grappler like ‘Hollywood’ Johnny by my side, I’m about to prove that I’m not just another pretty face.”

Indeed, Tessa does a lot more during her matches than just stand there and look beautiful. The beguiling blonde
(Continued on page 58)

“THAT MOMENT WAS among the most painful in my life. What happens is that you simply don’t know what’s hit you. It all happens in a split-second, but at the same time it seems to go by in slow motion. What I remember most is seeing the blur of the outside world go past my eyes. Then, just when you think that blur is going to go on forever, there’s a crash, a sharp, jagged knife of pain in the back, and your whole body crashes to a stop. The impact on your body is astonishing.”

A description of how it feels to be in a bad automobile accident?

Close. It’s Royal Family member Jacko Victory’s description of being on the receiving end of Scott Steiner’s “Frankensteiner.”

“Let me tell you a little secret,” Victory continued. “There are times, in the locker room, when you’ll see me and Rip [Morgan], those masked guys, the Minnesota Wrecking Crew II, and Ron [Simmons] and Butch [Reed], and we’ll all be talking about how to evade the ‘Frankensteiner.’ But not only the ‘Frankensteiner,’ it’s all the suplex combinations the Steiners have. The only way to beat them is to evade or counter their suplexes. Nobody’s been able to counter them yet, so evasion is the only way out.”

But to date, nobody’s been able to effectively evade the Steiners, either.

“I have to give them a lot of credit, Rick and Scott are in tremendous shape,” said Paul Ellering, who watched as the Steiners defeated his Road Warriors by pinfall at the Starrcade ’89 Iron Team tournament. “I have a long history in weight training, and I map out all the training for Hawk and Animal, and all I have to say about the Steiners is this: shoulders. Their upper-body strength is absolutely phenomenal, and they’ve become masters at capitalizing on that particular strength. The suplex is an upper-body move, so you go put two and two together. A suplex in the hands of anybody is just a suplex; in

(Continued on page 60)

Bruised And Battered Victims Agree:



WRESTLING THE STEINERS IS LIKE BEING IN A CAR CRASH



"You get slammed in the face by one of their forearms, and you *know* you've been hit."
—Butch Reed



"A suplex in the hands of anybody is just a suplex; in the hands of a Steiner, it's downright awesome."
—Paul Ellering



Everyone has been impressed by the way Rick and Scott Steiner have dominated the NWA—particularly their opponents, who report that the Steiners may well be the toughest duo in the sport today!



"Man, those guys are as solid as a couple of six-foot-tall rocks."
—Wrecking Crew II





These photos show how thoroughly Earthquake has dominated Hacksaw Duggan. Impressive outings like this one gave Earthquake a World title shot.



EARTHQUAKE

By Andy Rodriguez

“CAN YOU HEAR the rumbling? “I’ve never felt pain like this before,” said one opponent/victim as he lay on the trainer’s table. “My poor body won’t be the same after this. *Ohhhhh*, where’s that icepack?”

Can you feel the pounding? “No way do I ever wrestle him again, no matter *what* they pay me!”

Can you stand the pressure? “He’s a monster! They should ban him from the sport!”

Jimmy Hart calls Earthquake a “national disaster,” a clever play on the phrase “natural disaster.” But opponents of this 468-pound giant from

How One Wrestler Is Shaking Up The WWF

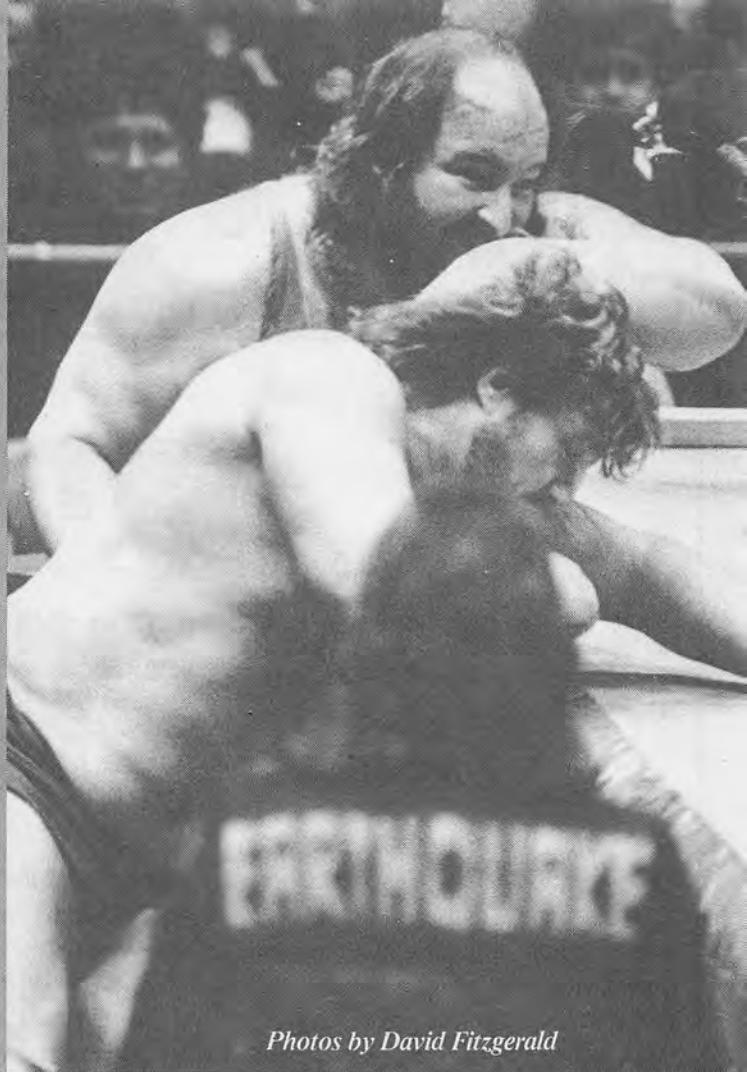
Montreal, Quebec, call Earthquake deadly. They’ve felt his power firsthand.

And the preliminary wrestlers aren’t the only ones complaining. Veterans like Ronnie Garvin and Hacksaw Duggan have suffered shocking pinfall losses to this Canadian terror.

“He’s not afraid of *anybody*,” said one insider. “He doesn’t care *how* much experience they have. He just loves hearing the crack of bones and the screams of pain. That’s why he wrestles.”

Can this man be stopped?

“Sure, he can be stopped,” said the insider, “by Hulk Hogan, or maybe by The Ultimate Warrior. And the way



Photos by David Fitzgerald

AFTERSHOCK!

Earthquake is kicking everybody's butt, they'll get their chance soon enough."

Indeed, Earthquake has already signed for several matches with the "Hulkster." With his size and might, he could provide one of Hogan's stiffest challenges yet.

But as far as some top WWF veterans are concerned, Earthquake's rise to the top stinks. In fact, it's beginning to cause concern for the very future of the federation as a whole.

"Look at a guy like Tito Santana," said one close friend of the Mexican's. "He's been in the WWF for about seven years now, and he's never received a shot at the World title. This

**He's big, he's bad,
and he's barreling his
way across the WWF
landscape. He's the
mighty Earthquake.**

**Not only is he
crushing every
opponent who dares
get in his way, he's
changing the very
shape of the
federation!**

Earthquake comes in and—boom!—he's wrestling Hogan. Where's the fairness in that?"

Even more bothersome is the way Earthquake got his coveted matches with the "Hulkster."

"He comes in here and breaks every rule in the book, and they reward him like that," the friend continued. "A guy who plays by the rules, on the other hand, a guy like Santana, has to wait at the back of a very long line. It's almost like they're inviting you to use every illegal means at your disposal.

"There's a real danger here that some wrestlers will be forced to turn
(Continued on page 62)

HOTSEAT

STING

"I HAVE NIGHTMARES ABOUT RIC FLAIR!"

NOBODY SAW IT coming. No one could have predicted it. It was the most unfortunate of injuries occurring at the most unfortunate of times. In an instant, Sting's career was taken away from him just as the world—as well as the NWA World title—seemed to be firmly within his grasp.

When Sting first ruptured his left patella tendon while climbing a steel cage at Clash of the Champions X in Corpus Christi, Texas, it was hoped that the injury was not severe. But when Ric Flair and Ole and Arn Anderson brutally attacked Sting's knee later on, they ensured that the popular young Californian would be crippled and out of action for a long, long time.

Even when it was announced that he would be forced onto the sidelines for at least six months, Sting refused to let the injury get the better of him. He attended daily therapy sessions designed to strengthen his weakened knee. He kept working out his upper body to maintain his strength and stamina. And, most importantly, he kept in contact with his fans. He wasn't about to let his debilitating injury put a damper on his natural enthusiasm.

Managing Editor Craig Peters ventured to Venice Beach, California, to speak with Sting at his beachfront home. Instead of finding Sting somber and depressed, Peters spoke with a man who is anxious to return to the mat wars—and who lusts to gain revenge on Flair and the Horsemen.

“

I want to get my mitts on Flair again. I'm pretty obsessed with the guy right now. That's why I'm determined to come back strong.

”

Q: Sting, I see that you're still hobbling around on crutches, but it hasn't kept you from being pretty active. I've even seen you at several NWA cards in the past few weeks. But it *has* to be an odd feeling for you to be in an arena knowing you can't compete.

A: Well, Craig, I figure that if I let this injury take over my life, then I wouldn't have much of a life left, you know? It would be too easy to just sit at home and let my mind and body get all out of shape. So instead, I've tried to keep the same kind of schedule that I would when I was wrestling full-time. I work out every day, and I go to as many wrestling events as I can. And, yes, not being able to wrestle really gets to me. But I know that after I'm healed I'll get the opportunity to get back at who did this to me.

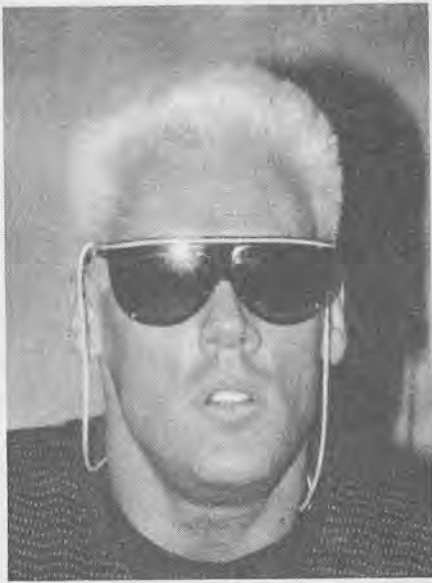
Q: Meaning Ric Flair, of course.

A: Yeah. The Andersons, too. But more than anything, I want to get my mitts on Flair again. To be honest, I'm pretty obsessed with the guy right now. I see his face all over the place. When I look in the mirror, I see Flair. When I go out shopping, I see Ric in all the malls and stores. Believe it or not, I have nightmares about Ric Flair! That's why I'm determined to come back strong. I don't want to be as good as I was before the injury. I want to be *better* than I've ever been.

Q: Do you really think you can do that?

A: Sure. But the knee is just one part





“

I'm on the disabled list now, but as far as I'm concerned, it's just a temporary setback.

”

of why I hate Flair so much, dude. You see, the guy played me for a fool. The Horsemen welcomed me into their little world with open arms, and I trusted them, I really did. It only lasted for a month, but I really believed that The Four Horsemen were something truly special. I was part of that supposedly elite organization, and I felt like I had the world by the tail.

Q: But you also did something that almost nobody expected when you pinned Flair to win the Iron Man tournament at Starrcade '89.

A: Yeah. I think I really took the starch out of Flair with that one. After Starrcade, I could sense the guy acting cool to me, like I had insulted his mother or something. But I never expected him to turn against me the way he did. For a long time, I thought Flair was a man to be admired, the greatest

NWA champion of modern times.

Q: What's your opinion of him now?

A: Oh, man, he's nothing but a snake! Getting chummy with that guy was the worst thing I could've done. Now I *know* what kind of a lowlife creep he really is. He saw that I was one of the few men in this sport that could beat him, and it just drove him nuts. He tried to block me out of my opportunity to win the World title. That hurt me every bit as much as this knee inju-



Sting first hurt his knee when he went after Ric Flair at Clash of the Champions X. The Horsemen worsened the injury when they attacked him later on.

ry does. But even after all the things that have happened to me, I'm more determined than ever. The knee will heal. The mind is still strong. Nothing's gonna keep me from Flair, and that's a stone promise.

Q: Your kind of determination, though, could force you into making mistakes. Other athletes have tried to come back too soon from your kind of injury, and they've ruined their careers in the process. Could your desire to get back at Flair cause you to return too quickly?



Sting and Lex Luger have battled on many occasions, but Sting says he owes Luger a debt of gratitude after Luger saved him at Wrestle War '90.

A: Nah, that's not gonna happen. I know full well that my doctors aren't going to let me get in a wrestling ring until I've made a total and complete recovery. Hey, I'd be stupid to throw it all away now. Not only do I wanna pulverize Flair, but I want to regain my standing as the top contender to the NWA title, too. Hey, I'm gonna *win* that title. And the only way to do that will be to undergo the full series of treatments and therapies they've prescribed for me. Sure, it gets a little boring to be cooped up in an office for hours while the specialists are checkin' out the knee, but it's what I have to do. After all, life can't be *all* fun, can it? *(laughs)*

Q: You seem to be taking your bad fortune very well, I must say.

A: What did you expect me to do, sit here and cry about it? Sure, I'm on the disabled list right now, but as far as I'm concerned, it's just a temporary setback. The injury is bad, but it could've been *the end*.

If it was just a little bit worse, the doctors said I might never have walked again, let alone wrestle. So why should I get depressed? It's a lot more fun to get out there and get involved in the matches as much as I can.

Q: Like you did during the Ric Flair-Lex Luger title match at Wrestle War '90?

A: Yeah. Wasn't that something? I can never thank the fans enough for reacting to me the way they did. I don't know where I'd be without those people. They're the greatest, and that's why I've dedicated my career to them.

Q: But what about your decision to come out and give moral support to Luger during that bout? You surprised just about everybody by doing that.

A: (pauses) I guess I *did*. But then I got a shocker when Luger came to my rescue after the Andersons tried to attack me. You know, it wasn't all that long ago when I was friends with Luger. We tagged together a lot, and we used to work out together, too. I guess you could say we were pretty close. But Lex is a man with a very large ego, as I'm sure you know.

Q: Sure. There's never been a man with more confidence than Luger.

A: That's for sure. He's just not happy unless he's in the center of the spotlight, so to speak. So we split, and we had some hellacious battles against each other. Hey, it looked like we'd never see eye to eye again. But when they gave Luger the title match that I was supposed to have gotten against Flair, I just had to give him my support. After all, that was *my* match, and after what Flair did to me, I would've rooted for *anybody* to beat him.

Q: How did you feel after Luger saved you from the Andersons?

A: (pauses) Amazed, actually. It was just a few weeks before that when we were trying to beat the hell out of each other. But it's clear that Luger sacrificed the World title to save my hide. That's something that I'll probably never be able to repay him for. I mean, it was right after my surgery at that point. If Ole had hit me in the knee with that crutch, he might have erased all the good that the operation did. All I can say is that I owe Luger a big one.

Q: Can you also say that he's your friend again?



“

Luger sacrificed the World title to save my hide. That's something I'll never be able to repay him for.

”

A: (silence)

Q: Well, Sting?

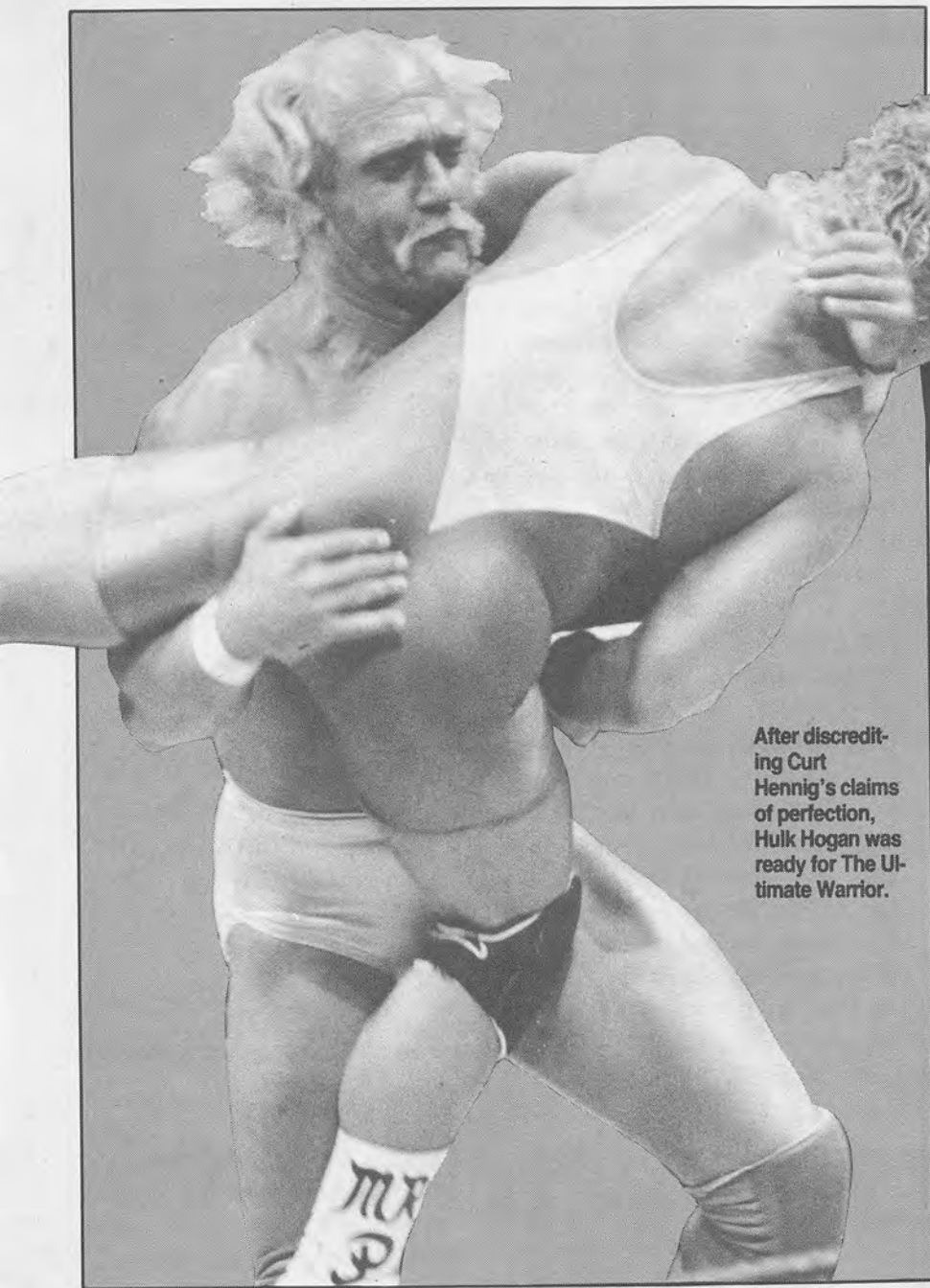
A: I'm just trying to be diplomatic here, ya know? Let's just say that my jury is still out on that one. I think I'd better leave it at that.

Q: And I think I'd better bring this interview to a close. It's been really exciting to see that your spirits are as high as ever. Thanks so much for allowing me a bit of your time during your convalescence.

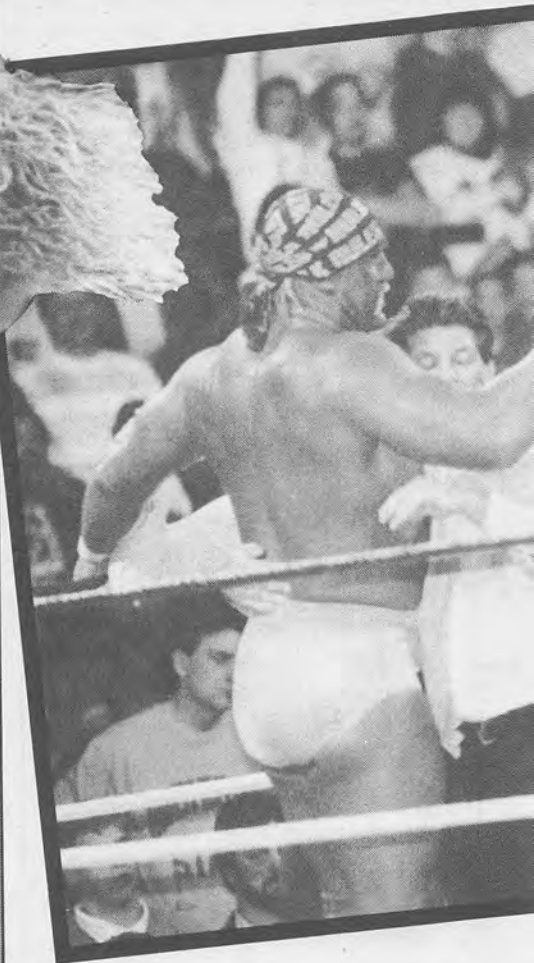
A: Hey, thank *you*, Craig. But before I sign off, I wanna say thanks to all the fans out there. You know, I've really been amazed by all the cards, letters, and flowers I've received since I've been laid up. I appreciate every bit of it, and I just wanna say thank you from the bottom of my heart. I'll make it up to all of you fantastic folks by comin' back to win the NWA title. *Owwww!* □



Sting's victory over Flair at Starrcade '89 put him in line for the World title shot he never received. The "Stinger" almost guarantees he'll come back and win the belt.



After discrediting Curt Hennig's claims of perfection, Hulk Hogan was ready for The Ultimate Warrior.



*Our Urgent
Plea To
Hulk Hogan
&
Ultimate
Warrior:*

TEAM UP AND CLEAN UP THE WWF!

By Dave Rosenbaum

THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG here. When two men on the side of good go to war, it can only mean happy times for the bad men.

Think of it this way: Two sheriffs in neighboring towns stop going after the bad guys and start battling each other. All of a sudden, there's havoc in both towns. It spills over and makes the entire area a fiery

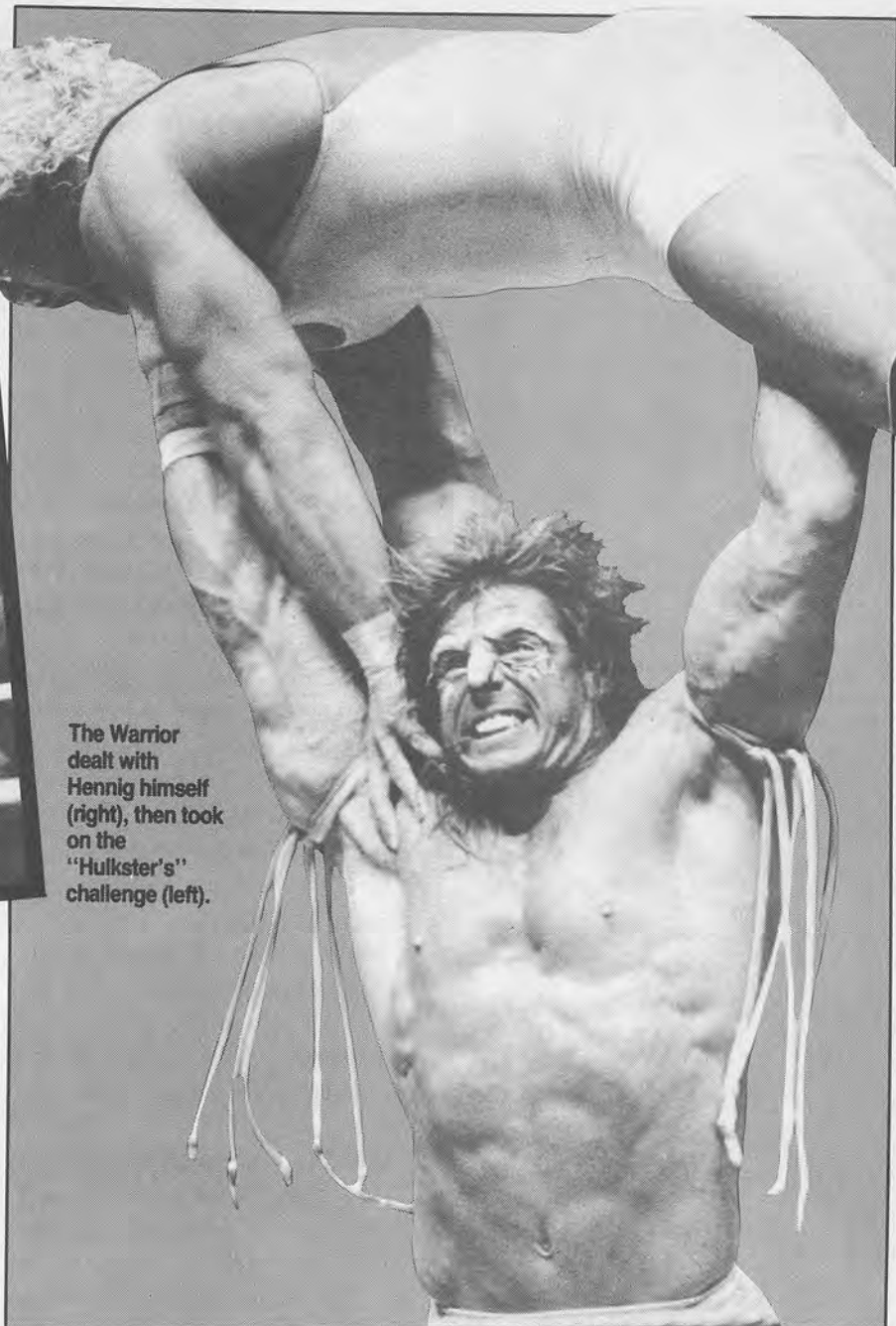
combat zone.

And that's what we have in the WWF right now.

Hulk Hogan and Ultimate Warrior, who for the past three years have done their best to battle all evil in



The Warrior dealt with Hennig himself (right), then took on the "Hulkster's" challenge (left).



The Hulk Hogan-Ultimate Warrior feud seems like a dream come true for WWF fans, but it's a nightmare for the WWF. There's trouble afoot, and nobody's around to stop the fighting

the WWF, are suddenly at war—with each other!

Hogan's main goal is to beat the Warrior and prove he's the greatest WWF World champion of all time. He's forgotten about all his other enemies.

The Warrior's goal is to win his first WWF World title and make people forget about Hogan. Remember those feuds he had going with An-

dre the Giant and Rick Rude? Well, Warrior doesn't; he only has eyes for Hogan.

But where does that leave the rest of the federation? Mr. Fuji is at work to rebuild his empire. He split up The Powers of Pain—Warlord and Barbarian—and brought in Pat Tanaka and Akio Sato.

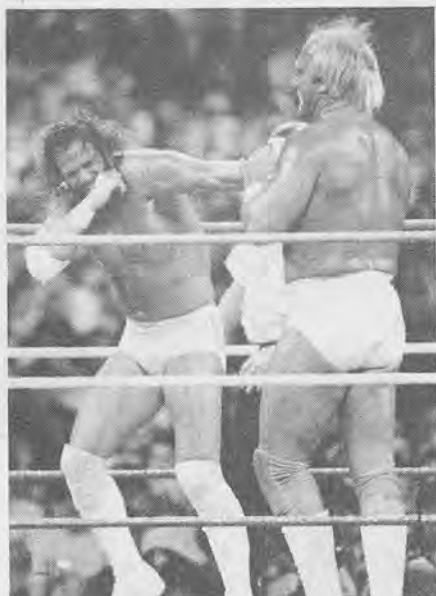
On another front, Ted DiBiase and Jake Roberts are at war and a biased referee named Big Bossman has been allowed to oversee them.

Move to another scene: Randy Savage and Sensational Sherri hope to upend Dusty Rhodes and Sapphire, thus moving Savage into posi-

tion for another run at the World or I-C title.

Curt Hennig is still alive and kicking. He's just waiting for an opening, for one slip by either Hogan or Warrior that will put him back into title contention.

The Canadian Earthquake has slid into the ratings. Now here's the kind of wrestler that has always been granted WWF title shots. He's singlehandedly destroying every man he faces. The Earthquake is a dangerous individual, but leading up to WrestleMania VI, nobody tried to stop him ... not Hogan, and not Warrior.



Since regaining the WWF World title from Randy Savage at WrestleMania V (above), Hogan has faced great challenges, including one from the huge Earthquake (below).



They were too preoccupied with themselves.

"It's a dangerous situation because all these people are being allowed to carry out their plans, which is to take over the WWF," Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks said. "The inmates are running the asylum because the keepers have their own battles to fight."

"When I was in the WWF, everybody kind of respected Hogan and knew that he was always around to set things straight," said Don Muraco. "Something tells me that that situation doesn't exist anymore. When

the good guys start fighting amongst themselves, there's trouble."

That's why it's time for Hogan and Warrior to put aside their differences and think about the big picture.

The editors of *Inside Wrestling* urge Hogan and the Warrior to team up and clean up the WWF!

"This house is way out of order," Senior Editor Bill Apter said. "I never realized before how far-reaching an impact Hogan and Warrior had on the WWF situation, especially Hogan. There's an opening now. There's room for mischief, and that's not good. I guess it's like the old situation in Texas: When the Von Erchs weren't around to settle matters, things got out of hand."

Hogan and Warrior rarely did things together even when they shared a philosophy. Each man always went about his business separately, doing what had to be done, taking care of the rulebreakers, making sure that lessons were learned and order was kept.

While the Warrior humbled Andre, Hogan buried Savage. While the Warrior worked to get the I-C belt out of Rude's evil hands, Hogan kept Zeus from taking over the WWF.

It was a nice situation. The integrity of the WWF titles was protected. Nobody had to worry about rulebreakers going too far.

Now we're just trying to figure out who the rulebreakers are. Can we trust the Warrior? Does Hogan care about anything but putting down this tremendous threat? Why should we cheer Big Bossman for his biased officiating? And since Warlord and Barbarian aren't with Mr. Fuji anymore, are they less dangerous individually?

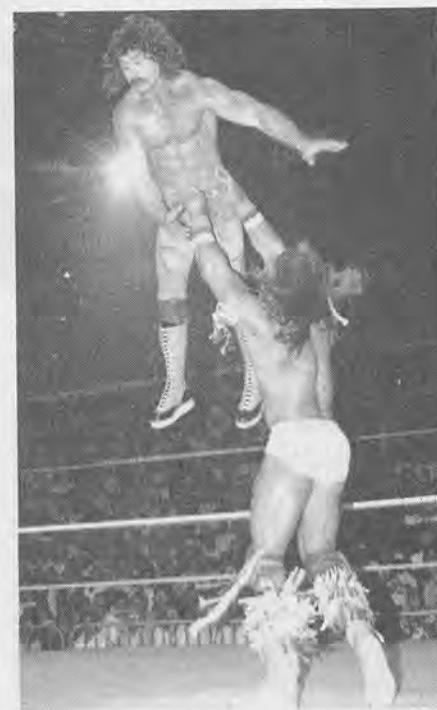
As for the Earthquake threat, well, here's a man who can wipe out half of the WWF roster with a dozen stomps of his mighty feet.

It's a scary situation.

And yet, we cheer the Hogan-Warrior feud and wait for another match. The fans gobbled up every single ticket for WrestleMania VI and



Warrior, too, has vanquished the "Macho King" (above). He also won the Intercontinental title from Rick Rude (below).



hungered for more. Hogan vs. Warrior: It's a dream match that can only mean hell for the WWF.

"I can see it happening already," one WWF wrestler said. "Things are starting to change, they're getting looser. It's a free-for-all, and there's nobody around to set things in order. The big boys are at war with each other."

The sheriffs are fighting, the inmates are partying.

These are dangerous times in the WWF.

We need Hogan and Warrior on the side of good once again.

Only they can save the WWF. □

THIS MONTH IN...

THE Wrestler



Now that **DUSTY RHODES** has taken care of **RANDY SAVAGE**, he deserves a title shot—any title shot—NOW!



My 10 challenges to **RIC FLAIR**—an exclusive story by **LEX LUGER**

PLUS . . .

TEDDY LONG'S revitalized **DOOM**: unmasked and unmerciful! . . . **LANNY POFFO'S** career goes from bad to verse in our "Ode To A WWF 'Genius' " . . .

JIMMY VALIANT targets **JERRY LAWLER** . . . An exclusive "Q & A" interview with **TULLY BLANCHARD**

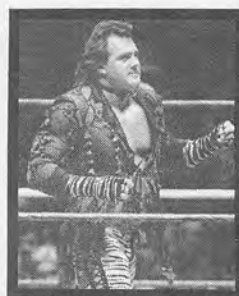
All this and much more . . .
in the July 1990 issue of
The Wrestler

ON SALE NOW!

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED



The maturing of **LEX LUGER**: How the "Total Package" became the people's choice



Why **BRUTUS BEEFCAKE** is the one "friend" **HULK HOGAN** can trust

PLUS . . .

FULL-COLOR centerfold plus career bio of **RICK MARTEL** . . . CONDEMNED!

Are **THE SKYSCRAPERS** beyond renovation? . . . After 20 years of beatings, **BOBBY HEENAN** still insists on wrestling! . . . Exclusive: Confessions of a Referee . . . A very special "Press Conference" with new AWA World champion **MR. SAITO**

All this and much more . . .
in the July 1990 issue of
Pro Wrestling Illustrated

ON SALE NOW

The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One

ONE ON ONE



"I'm not about to change my style just because you're in charge around here. That's just the way it is."

—Tully Blanchard

FATHERS AND SONS don't always agree, and perhaps in no area of life has this been more apparent than the wrestling ring.

Barry Windham started out his career in direct conflict with his father, Blackjack Mulligan. Curt Hennig was a fan favorite for several years while his father, Larry, wondered what went wrong. In the old UWF, Eddie Gilbert was often in direct conflict with his father, referee Tommy Gilbert.

But never has the conflict and difference of opinion been as great as what we now have in the AWA. President Joe Blanchard has one job: to make sure the rules are followed and order is kept in his federation.

His son, Tully, has spent his entire career breaking the rules. A world tag team champion in both the NWA and WWF, he was a longtime member of the infamous Four Horsemen. He is, in fact, one of the most dangerous men in wrestling history.

Now that they're both in the same federation, can they coexist?

Probably not. Tully has already sided with fellow rulebreakers Mike Enos and Wayne Bloom. Joe has made it clear that he won't accept rulebreaking by any wrestler, including his own son.

These are two determined men; each is convinced that he is right. And when determined blood relatives collide, there's sure to be more trouble than usual.

The editors of *Inside Wrestling* couldn't resist this matchup. Would Tully and Joe have a friendly conversation, or would their differences quickly become apparent when brought together . . . "One on One."

TULLY BLANCHARD:

Hello, Dad.

JOE BLANCHARD:

Hello, son, and welcome to the AWA. I take it that you plan to be a well-mannered guest of our fine federation?

TB: What guest? I'm here to stay and I'm here to take over. Listen, Dad, you know the way I operate: I go for the gold and keep trying until I get it. That means doing anything it takes to win.

JB: Anything?

TB: Yes, anything. Listen, Dad, I'm proud of you and all you've done. You were always a role model for me growing up. But

the fact that you're my father means absolutely nothing when I'm in that ring . . .

JB: I agree . . .

TB: And I'm not about to change my style just because you're in charge around here. That's just the way it is.

JB: Fine. And you should know that just because you're my son, you shouldn't expect any kind of special treatment. If you expect to get away with the same stuff that you got away with in the WWF and NWA, you're sadly mistaken. As president, I've set some pretty high standards for myself and for this organization. I run a

N ONE



"If you expect to get away with the same stuff you got away with in the WWF and NWA, you're sadly mistaken."

—Joe Blanchard

curb that mean streak with all the legal means at my disposal.

TB: Good luck, but I have something to say, too. You dance with the one who brung you. That means I'm gonna keep on doing things the way I always have, and *that's* the Blanchard way. Listen, Dad, you and all the other presidents are all the same: You have this idea that wrestling is some sissy sport, but it's for tough men with tough minds. I work hard. I give 100 percent every time in the ring and I'm loyal to my teammates. Those are pretty good ideals. Those are things you taught me. But I also don't take any crap. I take the extra step to win a match. You're just gonna have to deal with that.

JB: Wrong. I'm not gonna have to deal with nothing. Things aren't easy around here and they're only beginning to settle down now that Larry Zbyszko isn't champion anymore. I saw what you did in that six-man match against Trooper, D.J. Peterson, and Paul Diamond. You grabbed Peterson's trunks and that's illegal. The only reason I let it go was because there wasn't a title on the line and there were other things to attend to. But you teamed with Zbyszko and I don't like that either. He's one of the worst offenders I've ever seen in this sport. That means I'm gonna have to keep an extra eye on you. You got that?

TB: Yeah, I got it. You're telling me not to team with Zbyszko, but he's a good man, my kind of man, and I gave him my word. He didn't like it that I was your son. I told him he had nothing to worry about. I stopped kowtowing to my father a long time ago.

JB: Kowtowing? Well, I don't expect you to give me any special treatment. I just expect you to treat me like the president of the AWA and I especially expect you to respect the rules. That's all I ever ask of any wrestler. Unfortunately, I don't think I'm gonna get it from you.

TB: Maybe not, but we shall see. Pops, I can tell that this is gonna get awfully interesting. If there's one thing I love, it's a little controversy, and you're about to have your hands full. □

tight ship here, son, and that's the way it's going to be.

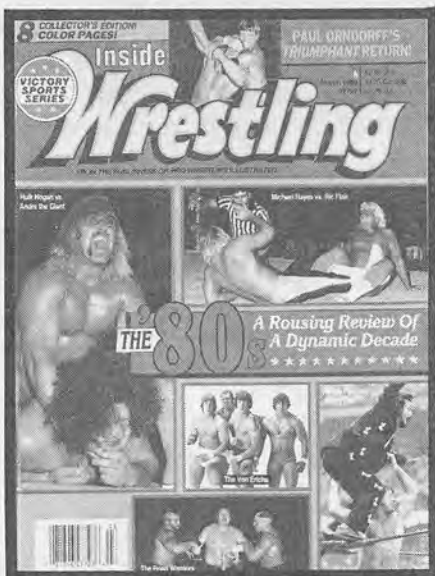
TB: Well, I wouldn't expect anything else. Listen, I never asked for any special kind of treatment. All I ask is that people stay out of my way, and that's the way it's gonna have to be with you, too. Stay out of my way, let me do my thing, and everything'll be just fine.

JB: I don't know about that. Let me remind you about something, Tully. Everybody knows that I'm your father and they're gonna be keeping a close eye on us. That's all right; I expected that. People almost expect me to give you

some kind of special treatment, so I'm going to go out of my way to make sure people don't get that idea. I . . .

TB: Don't lecture me, Dad . . .

JB: And don't you interrupt me. I'm your father and I'm also the president of the federation you just happen to compete in. Right now, I'm talking as president. I don't like a lot of the things you've done in the past. You're proud of hurting people, and that's not the Blanchard way. You're one of the finest wrestlers I've ever seen—tough, courageous—but there's a mean streak in you that I don't like. I plan to



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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 5)



Al Perez (against Paul Roma) would win a lot more matches if he had a manager like Bobby Heenan or Mr. Fuji, writes reader Rene Wilson.

wrestlers, have made their debuts there. None of them has managed to do any better than Perez has.

What seems clear to me is that Perez needs a manager again. If he could convince Bobby Heenan or Mr. Fuji to take him on, I'm sure he could be a big winner again. He's just too damn good to remain ignored!

RENE WILSON
 Kansas City, MO

SORRY SEXTON

I was glad to see an interview with LPWA champion Susan Sexton in your May '90 issue, but many of the things she said were way off-base.

How can she claim she's a worthy champion? She did absolutely nothing to earn that belt. LPWA officials simply handed her the title, which is no way for an organization to choose its top titleholder. There's no denying that Sexton is a very talented wrestler, but she's going to have to prove herself against some worthy competition before I give her any credit.

Sexton also claimed that the LPWA title is the most important in the sport, but I think the AWA women's belt is more prestigious since it's been defended for several years now. If Sexton

wants to be considered among the best, she'll have to take on AWA champion Candi Devine. And if she really wants to be number one, she'll have to beat her, too!

NED VECINATO
 Laughlin, NV

SUPERFLY SOARS

I think that Pete Swiff Amoruso is wrong to suggest that Jimmy Snuka return to rulebreaking, like his letter in the May issue ("The New Snuka") stated. The "Superfly" has been absolutely brilliant since returning to the WWF, and he doesn't need to change anything about what he's doing.

Could you imagine Snuka being managed by "Sensational" Sherri or Slick? It would be ridiculous. Snuka is a legend, and he's doing great on his own.

Don't ever change, Jimmy!

DENNY THOMPSON
 Eugene, OR

TERRY'S RETURN?

Don't believe for a second that we've seen the last of Terry Funk. He has retired several other times only to make successful comebacks, the most

(Continued on page 48)

BACK ISSUES OF



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November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.
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January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.
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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 46)

famous of which was last year.

I feel the only thing that prevented Funk from regaining the World title and destroying Ric Flair was Gary Hart. On his own, Funk seriously injured Flair and worked his way up the top 10 with victories over stars like Sting and Rick Steamboat. Then he hired Hart and he went straight downhill.

Look for Funk to return in 1990. As long as he's around, he'll be making trouble for someone.

JEFF BENSON
Concord, CA



Terry Funk's retirement is not permanent, warns reader Jeff Benson, who thinks Funk will always be a troublemaker.

LAMENTING LAWLER

It's truly sad to watch the deterioration of a great man and a great champion like Jerry Lawler. The article in the May '90 issue ("Has Jerry Lawler Destroyed Memphis' Last Hope?") showed just how low Lawler is willing to go in order to keep his title. The photo of Lawler choking down King Cobra with a chain proves to the whole world what a demented individual Lawler has become.



Jerry "The King" Lawler uses foreign objects to retain his USWA title against men like King Cobra, and that angers reader Joan Fabik.

It's hard to believe that all of us in Tennessee cheered for Jerry less than a year ago. Today, he'll do anything, no matter how cruel, in order to keep his USWA title. Cobra gave us all hope when he beat Lawler for the belt, but even this fine wrestler was easy prey for Lawler and his never-ending bag of dirty tactics.

Someone has to put a stop to this man before he ruins the credibility of the USWA title forever. Frankly, I think the only man who can beat him is Kerry Von Erich. I know Kerry's busy defending his Texas title, but we fans in Memphis need him more than ever.

JOAN FABIK
Memphis, TN

Lawler hasn't managed to destroy our hopes yet. Look at how well Jimmy Valiant did against him recently. It's only a matter of time before someone takes Lawler's title and retires him.

Jerry claims he's "The King," but the emperor is no longer wearing any clothes.

ED PARKINSON
Lexington, KY □

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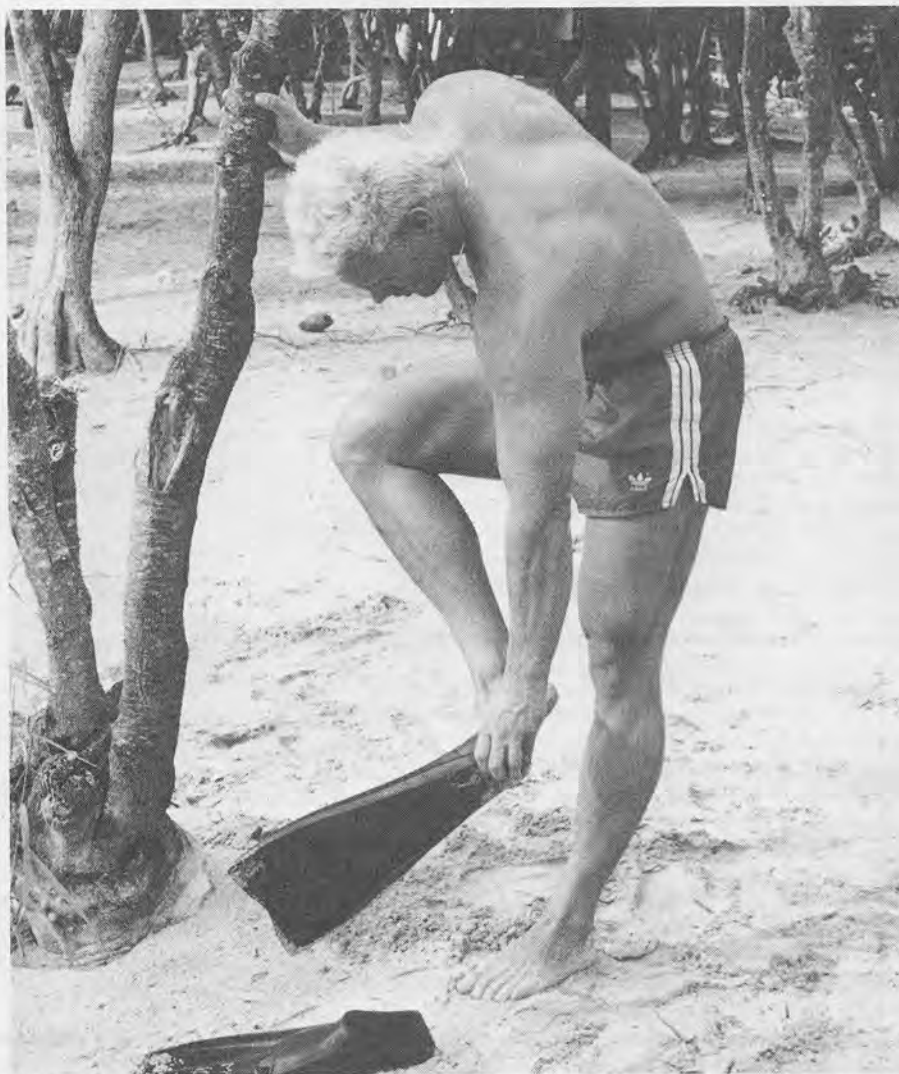
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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 8)



Like many wrestlers who travel to warm-weather towns, Sting enjoys spending time on the beach. The beaches make Florida a favored destination.

get pretty boring, but you have to come up with ways to keep your mind sharp."

"The coasts of Florida are the best places to go because there are always the beaches," Lex Luger said. "The thing is, I try to avoid laying around on the beach because that just makes you lazy. I run, I swim, but I still have a hard time keeping my mind off of that night's match. That's the hard part. It's so difficult to relax your mind."

When they first got into wrestling, Luger and Sting were attracted by the vast amount of travel. Now, both men wish there was

a way to get around it. Of course, there isn't; travel is a part of wrestling.

"It's a little easier for the announcers because we have so much preparation to do," NWA announcer Jim Ross said. "I usually find myself with no more than two or three hours of free time a day when I'm on the road because I'm doing research, taking notes, preparing for the evening's matches, and going over things with the TV crew."

"Fortunately, most gyms in most cities welcome pro wrestlers because it makes them look good when we work out there," Scott Steiner said. "Walk into any huge gym in the country and there's a good chance you'll see a picture of some wrestler hanging up. That's how we kill a lot of time."

"I find myself at the gym even when I'm not working out," Road Warrior Hawk said. "When I'm out, it's hard to get any privacy. Fans notice me and they always want to meet me. At least in the gym, there's a respect for privacy."

But spending eight hours in a gym, escaping the public eye, is



"I've got women in every port," says Ric Flair, and that's one of the reasons he enjoys travel so much. Wrestlers find they have a lot of free time when they're on the road.

no way to spend a career. As Sting said, travel was part of the initial attraction of a wrestling career.

"You have to make the best of it," Sting said. "I try to get out, and it's funny, but people don't notice me as much when I'm not wearing my makeup. But I try to go to restaurants instead of eating in the hotel, I try to hit parks, maybe a few museums, I try to learn a little about the city I'm in."

"Also, it's a great city, and there's always something to do."

● Most wrestlers have never been to New York City. That's because only the WWF runs cards in Madison Square Garden. But those who have been to New York agree that it offers the most anonymity and the widest selection of entertainment choices.

● Detroit is a wrestling hotbed, but wrestlers hate cards at the Pontiac Silverdome. "It's so far

Atlanta; 6—New Orleans (despite the small crowds at the Superdome); 7—New York; 8—Boston; 9—Baltimore; 10—St. Louis.

● The top 10 least preferred North American cities: Votes were spread around, but Detroit; Tulsa, Oklahoma; Uniondale, New York; Buffalo, New York; and Los Angeles (hard to get around with a car) all made the list.

● The top five road activities: 1—working out; 2—eating; 3—



In almost every town he visits, Road Warrior Animal hits the local gym. Other wrestlers do the same. In most gyms, the grapplers aren't besieged by autograph seekers.

An informal poll of 20 wrestlers from various federations revealed the following:

● Tampa, Florida, is the North American city of choice because of the weather and the beaches. Also, even though Tampa has a solid wrestling tradition, most fans respect the privacy of the wrestlers.

● Trips to Japan and Europe are a welcome change of pace. "Japan is probably the best place because wrestlers are treated like gods there," said Steve Williams.

removed from everything," one wrestler said. "There's really not much to do." Wrestlers who had been to the Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, Long Island, made similar comments.

● Another preferred city: Toronto. "Lots to do, great people, the city is clean, the wrestling fans are rabid," one wrestler said. "Unbelievable town."

● The top 10 most preferred North American cities: 1—Tampa; 2—Toronto; 3—San Diego; 4—Greensboro, North Carolina; 5—

sleeping; 4—running; 5—bar hopping.

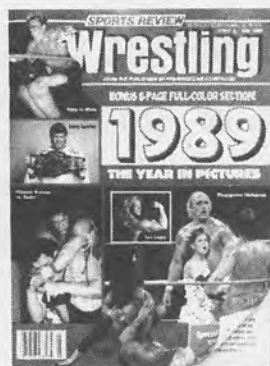
Not surprisingly, NWA World champion Ric Flair said he loved being on the road.

"I've got women in every port," Flair said. "Never a dull moment for the 'Nature Boy.' When you soak up life like I do, every town's a new adventure."

Unfortunately for the rest of the wrestlers—those without a woman in every port—travel takes its tolls.

Bill Bradley was right. Life on the run isn't easy. □

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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 14)



Some of Brazil's most famous battles came against The Sheik. Brazil recalls one occasion where he bounced back from a brutal assault and administered one of his own.

some point in the match, he would 'accidentally' bump into the referee. It was really an ingenious system. That Farouk was a rule-breaking mastermind."

We both watch as Sheik uses his ill-gotten weapon to elicit rivers of blood from Brazil's face and body. On that night, Brazil was carried from the ring on a stretcher. His body required 88 stitches and a pint of blood.

I ask him how one bounces

back from such an assault. He smiles. He asks, "What date was that match?" in a voice that tells me he already knows the precise date. I tell him, and he pads off to his bedroom and returns with a voluminous collection of photos and newspaper clippings.

"My daughters kept a scrapbook of a lot of my matches," he explains, slightly embarrassed. "I never thought much of it back then, but now I'm kinda glad they

did."

He rummages through the pages and ends his search by handing me a copy of a newspaper story. The headline reads: "Bobo Returns To Scene Of The Crime: This Time He Gets His Sheik." The story recounts Brazil's courageous and doctor-defying return to the ring less than 48 hours after his brutal thrashing. Photos show The Sheik, bloody and bowed, being helped from the ring.

"How does one bounce back from an assault?" Bobo asks. "Replace a bad memory with one more pleasant. That's also the key to a long and happy life."

I have time for one more controversial question: "In the 1950s and early '60s, what was it like to be a black wrestler? In other sports, black athletes report terrible stories of racism. Willie Mays and Hank Aaron recall being unable to eat or sleep in the same hotels as the rest of the team. That, in addition to the racist attitudes of their own teammates. You wrestled in the South, in some of the worst pockets of segregation in the country. How bad was it?"

Bobo tosses another smile at me. "I know you're not going to believe this," he says; "but I cannot remember a single incident of racism in my career. In Japan, I remember fans wanting to touch my skin, having never seen a black man up close before. But that was innocent curiosity, not malicious racism."

"I suppose it helped that I usually wrestled the area's worst rule-breaker. But I like to think people will respond to a nice guy with good intentions. Being in the public light, people got to know me not as a black man, but as a wrestler and a human being. And I've tried to do okay in both those roles."

Bobo, you've done just fine. ☐

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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 16)



Bam Bam Bigelow headlocks Terry Gordy. Like Brody, Bigelow prides himself on his independence. Currently competing in the NWA, Bigelow maintains that even if he won the World title, he'd wrestle wherever he wanted to.

centages of gate receipts. The two guys look at him and laugh. One of them names a figure based on a three-year contract in which Brody would wrestle six times a week.

"I don't sign long-term contracts," Brody says flat out.

"Well I guess you won't be wrestling here in Texas," the promoter says.

"Well, I guess I will," Brody says. "I just won't be wrestling in Texas for you. Promoter X agreed to my terms. I was just seeing if you'd up his offer."

"Brody gets up and walks away. The two promoters are panicking. They grabbed him before he left the arena and doubled Brody's offer. The thing is, Brody never even had another offer. He was bluffing the whole time."

Bam Bam Bigelow slaps his knee and laughs as he speaks of Brody, clearly one of his favorites. "Was he something else, or what?" Bigelow exclaims. "You should see how they revere him

in Japan. He's like a god over there. People lower their voices when they talk about him."

Five years ago, Bigelow approached Bill Apter at an NWA awards dinner at New York's Studio 54 and begged him to take his picture. Today, Bigelow dictates his own demands to promoters who line up for the opportunity to acquire his considerable skills.

"It's been quite an education," he says, without a smile. "I swore I'd never beg again for anything. I always thought the thing I wanted most in the world was a world championship. I still want it, but I learned from Hansen and Brody to never allow a piece of gold to be your master. Once you sacrifice your independence, you lose your dignity and integrity."

"Look at all these guys languishing in the major federations hoping one day for a shot at the title. All of them are proud, skilled professionals who have let fantasies cloud their vision. There can be only one number-one contend-

er. Once you're around too long in one spot, no one thinks anything of you, no matter *how* good you are. I could easily see that happening to me if I didn't go to Japan."

Japan. The Land of the Rising Sun proved to be the birthplace of Bigelow's rising star. Against the world's best competition, Bigelow established himself as an international force, capable of defeating the world's top talent.

"If I had stayed in the WWF, I would have been given a nickname and assigned a class status. I would have made good money, but I would have lost my soul. Brody used to say that each man is responsible for his own destiny. We should never have to rely on others to make things happen in our careers. Talent speaks for itself, but it can get lost if it's not properly positioned."

"Hansen once said that defending the AWA World championship was the hardest thing he ever did. He said it was too confining. It doesn't matter where you wrestle, as long as you win all your matches. And I win all my matches."

Or at least a goodly portion of them. Bigelow has now returned to the United States—temporarily, he assures us—and will be wrestling in the NWA. Will he seek out Ric Flair? Would the NWA World title compromise his freedom or bring on a sudden change of attitude?

"Success won't spoil Bam Bam Bigelow," says Bigelow. "The NWA title would just be a temporary diversion. I'd still wrestle in the independent federations and overseas, and if the NWA didn't like it, they could strip me of the belt. As long as someone pays me to beat people up, it don't matter to me where I wrestle."

Spoken like a true Bruiser. □

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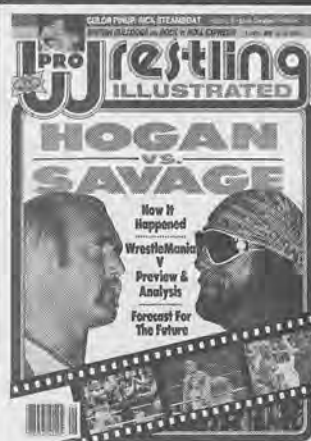
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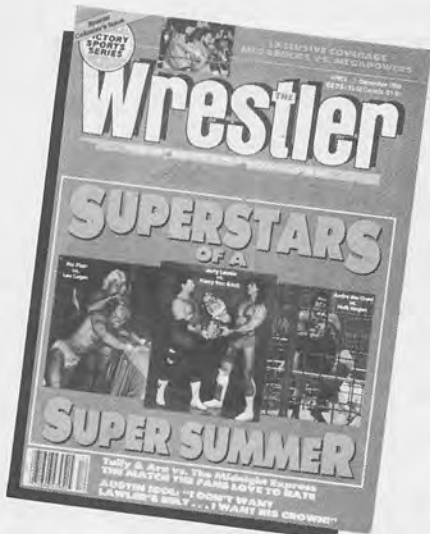
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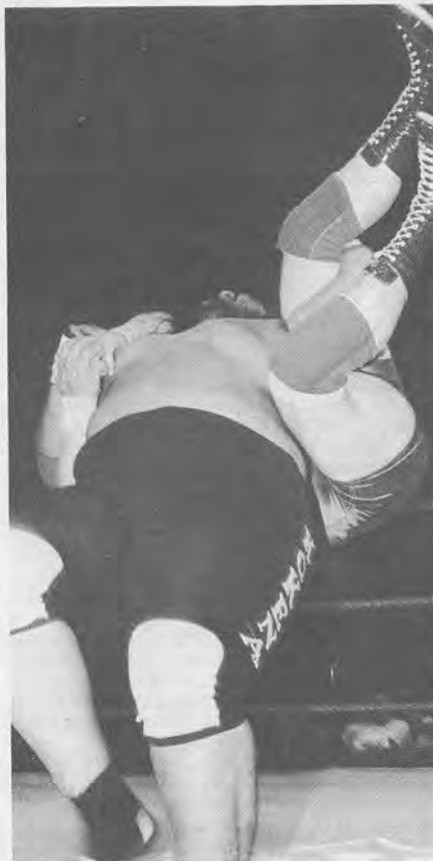
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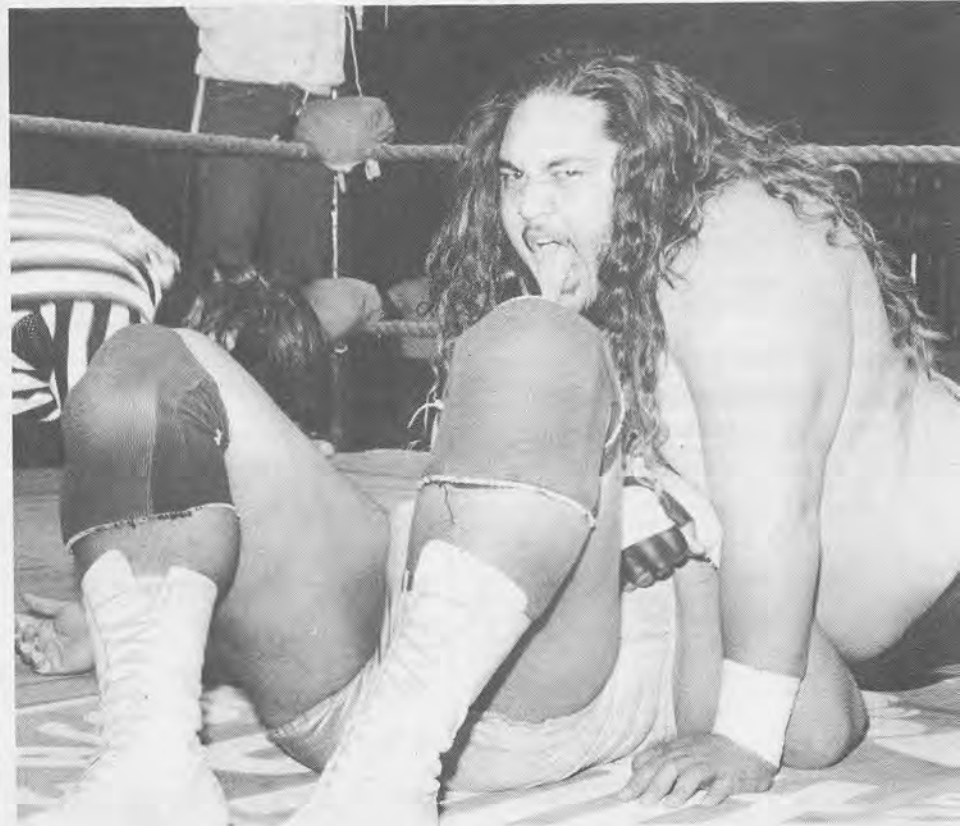
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KOKINA MAXIMUS

(Continued from page 29)



The Samoan drop is Kokina's big finishing maneuver (above). He has a mean streak characteristic of men managed by Al-Kaissie (below). Even Kokina's opponents concede that he's good enough to go all the way to the top.



"The Samoan drop is a lot harder than it looks," said Sika. "I have taught it to many men; Kokina learned it faster and better than anyone else."

Capt. Lou Albano, who led the team of Afa and Sika to three WWF World tag team championships, agrees that Kokina is a formidable talent.

"I've managed Samoans, Moon-dogs, Executioners, all manner and manifestation of unusual individual," Albano raved, "and in fact I am quite an unusual individual myself, and I just want to say that this Kokina Maximus, he has ability, agility, the body of a sumo wrestler, and the mind of a future world champion."

Even several of Kokina's opponents agree that he has the talent to become one of the sport's top stars.

"I have to give him credit, he's a tough, tough man," said Sgt. Slaughter. "But it takes more than toughness to survive in this sport, it takes instinct and intelligence. I think Kokina has



Al-Kaissie may have a winner in Kokina, but Greg Gagne, for one, says he thinks the Samoan should dump the nefarious manager and chart his own course.

those qualities, but he's going to have to get away from scummy snakes like Al-Kaissie if he's ever going to realize his true potential in this sport."

"I agree with Slaughter," said Greg Gagne. "Some months back, I was teaming up with Paul Diamond for an AWA World tag team title match against Mike Enos and Wayne Bloom. Kokina's interference in that match cost Paul and me the belts, but that attack had Al-Kaissie written all over it. I don't think Kokina would ever have done something like that himself; he just doesn't have it in him. But he also doesn't have it in him to break away from Al-Kaissie, which is a shame."

"Gagne is just angry with having been run out of the sport by my man Maximus," Al-Kaissie countered. "The seasoning is taking place as it should. Before long, Kokina is going to be ready to make some major moves in this sport, and when he does, *everyone* will know about it. Kokina Maximus will be *the* wrestler of the '90s!"

That may turn out to be the most intelligent prediction Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie ever made in his life. ☐

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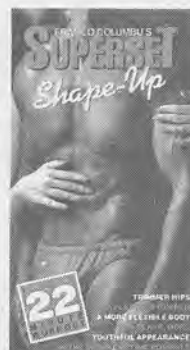
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TANTALIZING TESSA

(Continued from page 31)

seems to have picked up where Missy left off. She has, in fact, raised interference for her man to a new level of nefarious evil.

But what makes Tessa fascinating isn't her ability to interfere in a match (significant though that ability is) or her predictable level of braggadocio. It's her acknowledgement of the lessons of wrestling history and the relatively thoughtful level of analysis she lends to her view of women in the sport.

"Too often, too many women in this sport don't learn from the mistakes of others," Tessa told *Inside Wrestling*. "Take Sunshine, for instance. Where is she today? Exactly. Nowhere. She had her chance with Jim Garvin, but for

some stupid reason she decided to go it alone.

"When people think of Garvin now, they think of a top-level wrestler, a former AWA and NWA World tag team champion, a man in the thick of the action. When they think of Sunshine, they think of—well, they probably *never* think of Sunshine, so it's really a pointless question, isn't it?"

And what of Missy Hyatt, Tatum's previous valet?

"Missy's making the same mistake Sunshine did—she's trying to go out on her own," Tessa said. "For a while, with Eddie Gilbert by her side, she was making some headway in the sport. But as an announcer she stinks. Another one

who's yesterday's news."

Playing a game of word association with Tessa is like reading through a laundry-list of failed (to her view) careers.

Woman?

"Had a shot with Doom, but failed miserably. She's overwhelmed by Ric Flair's talents, so now she's in the back-ground. Basically useless."

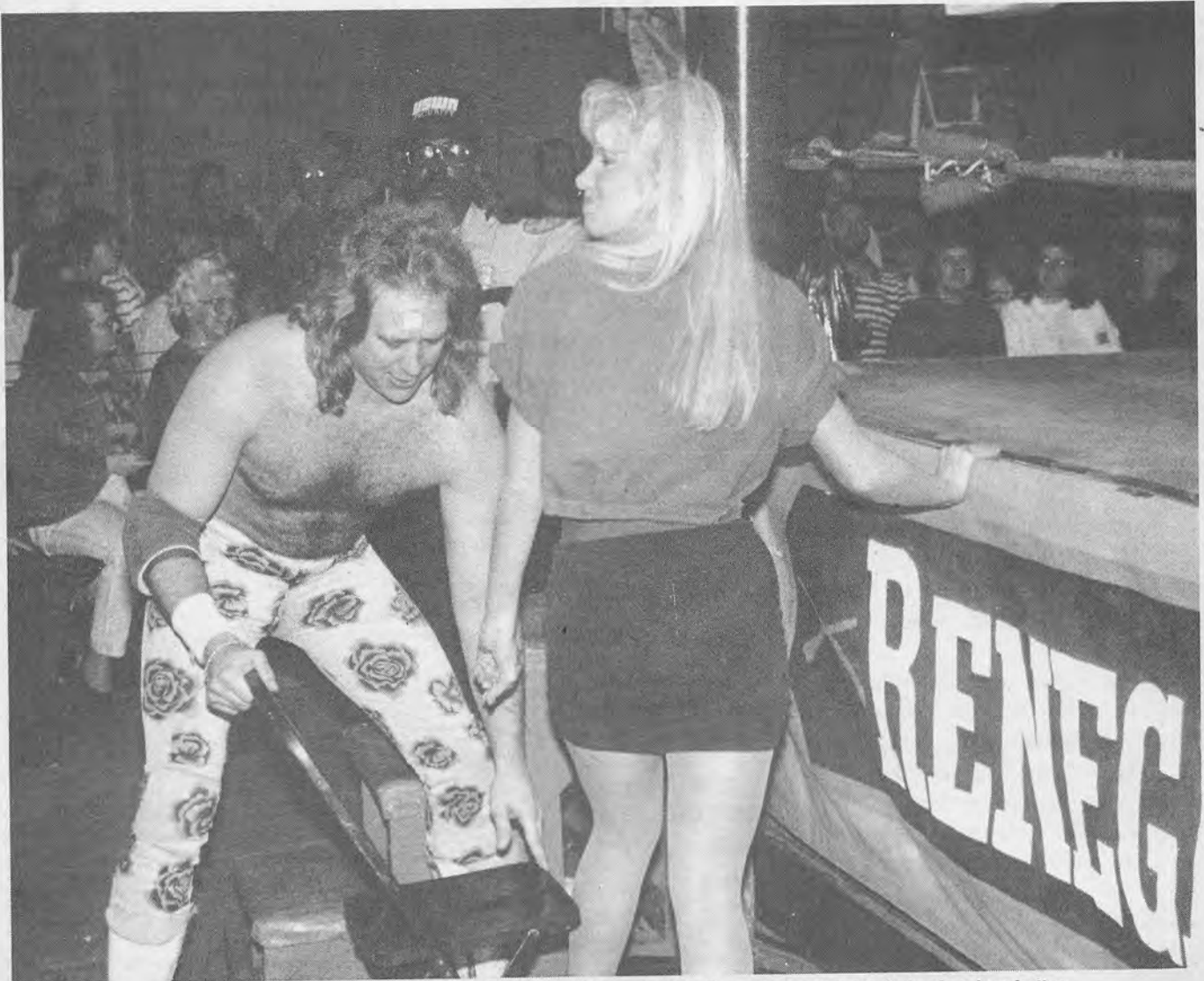
Elizabeth?

"Where is she today? That should tell you all you need to know."

Sensational Sherri?

"The Bride of Frankenstein. She was something when she was wrestling; now she's just a joke."

Tessa, in fact, has a plan to succeed



John Tatum has a place at ringside for Tessa, his new valet. Tessa is convinced she's already a better ring tactician than any woman who's ever been associated with the sport.

where all other women in the sport have failed.

"I'm looking at the sport in the long term," Tessa said. "Johnny is ready to make his move, and I'm going to make it with him. My plan is very simple: Johnny will defeat Kerry Von Erich for the USWA Texas title. From there, he will move on to the USWA heavyweight title and prove his dominance of the USWA/CWA area against every opponent the promoters throw at him. Beyond that, who can tell? The sky's the limit for a man of Johnny's talents."

"What is she, kidding?" said Kerry Von Erich with a hearty laugh. "Tell me you haven't heard anybody talk like *that* before. Give me a break! That's some plan she's got, that Tessa, some kind of plan."



According to the terms of a recent match contract, a victory over Tatum would give Kevin Von Erich "possession" of Tessa. He won her, but didn't keep her for long.

"But I'm some kind of woman," she retorts. "Go ahead and snicker, I'll have the last laugh."

If Von Erich could have seen Tessa's face when she said that, he'd know that she's serious—*deadly* serious—in her intentions. Perhaps Von Erich would do well not to take this latest threat too lightly.

"Take me lightly?" Tessa asks. "That's the biggest mistake *anybody* can make." ☐

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THE STEINERS

(Continued from page 33)

the hands of a Steiner, it's downright awesome."

"We're new to the NWA, and I thought we we're lucky to secure a series of World tag team title shots right off the bat," said one masked member of the Minnesota Wrecking Crew II. "But the fact of the matter is, it's like running full-speed right into a brick wall. There's no give. Man, those guys are as solid as a couple of six-foot-tall rocks."

"The first time we wrestled the Steiners, before the match, I knew we were going to be in for a fight," said the other masked Wrecking Crew member. "But I never imagined that they'd be *that* powerful. You look at them, I mean, Rick is kind of goofy, and Scott still has the look of a teen-aged kid in his face, but jeez! Don't ever underestimate either of them, that's my advice to anybody who might be stepping into the ring with them."

Ole Anderson, manager and adviser to the Wrecking Crew, declined comment. Perhaps that has something to do with the way the Steiners have dominated the Wrecking Crew in recent weeks. Or perhaps it has to do with the fact that Rick and Scott delivered a humiliating and painful defeat to Ole and Arn Anderson at Wrestle



"Every time I see that I'm *not* wrestling the Steiners, I breathe a little easier."

—Jacko Victory

War '90 in Greensboro, North Carolina.

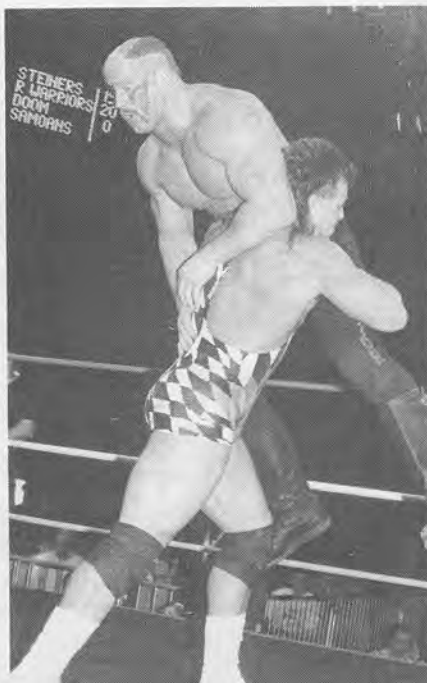
"Pure power, or at least as close to it as two humans can get," said Sir Oliver Humperdink, whose Wild Samoans delivered a rare loss to the Steiners—by disqualification—at Starrcade '89. "Samoa Savage kept wanting to butt heads with those guys, to try and meet them blow-for-blow in the power department, but I knew it couldn't be done. That's the function

of a manager, to help his men avoid an opponent's strengths and capitalize on his weaknesses. Right now, the way the Steiners are, I think a disqualification win is the only win anybody's likely to get on them."

Doom also took on the Steiners at the Iron Team competition—and lost. Still, they remained number-one contenders to Rick and Scott's NWA World tag team title for several months, and have faced them—and



Rick's "Steinerline" levels Fatu (above). Scott gives Hawk a spinecrusher (right).



Michael Hayes is among the many victims of the "Frankensteiner" (above).

lost to them—in arenas from coast to coast.

"Hey, I'm not too big a man not to give credit where credit is due," says Butch Reed. "I don't think they're great wrestlers, let me say that first off. They're one-dimensional. I mean, beyond suplexes, what have they got? Take away that one weapon, and they're nothing. But one thing they are, brother, is rock-solid. You get slammed in the face by one of their forearms, and you *know* you've been hit."



Scott occasionally puts aside his outstanding array of maneuvers and uses his fists, as he does here against Am Anderson.

"Tough, brother, real tough," agrees Ron Simmons. "You wrestle a couple of guys like that, and you find yourself pressing yourself to the limit. Man, my adrenaline pumps like crazy when I know we've gotta face them. But damn it, seems like whenever I get back to the dressing room after the match, I start finding bruises and raspberries I never had before I went in there. Yeah, they're tough, no doubt about *that*."

"All I know," said Jacko Victory, "is that every time I look down at a match contract and see that I'm *not* going to be wrestling the Steiners, I breathe a little easier. It's probably what a prisoner feels like when he gets a reprieve from the governor!" ☐

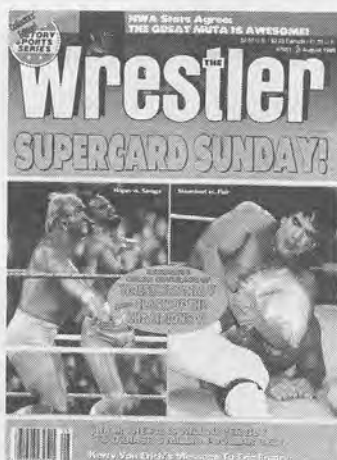
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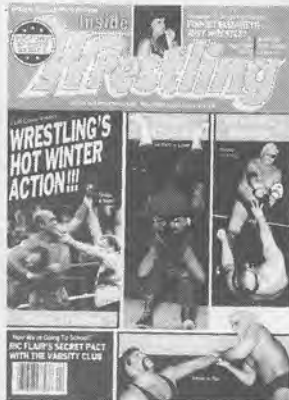
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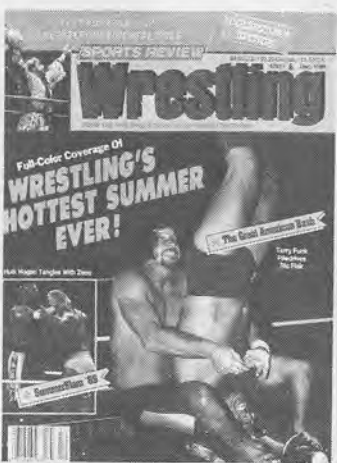
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EARTHQUAKE

(Continued from page 35)

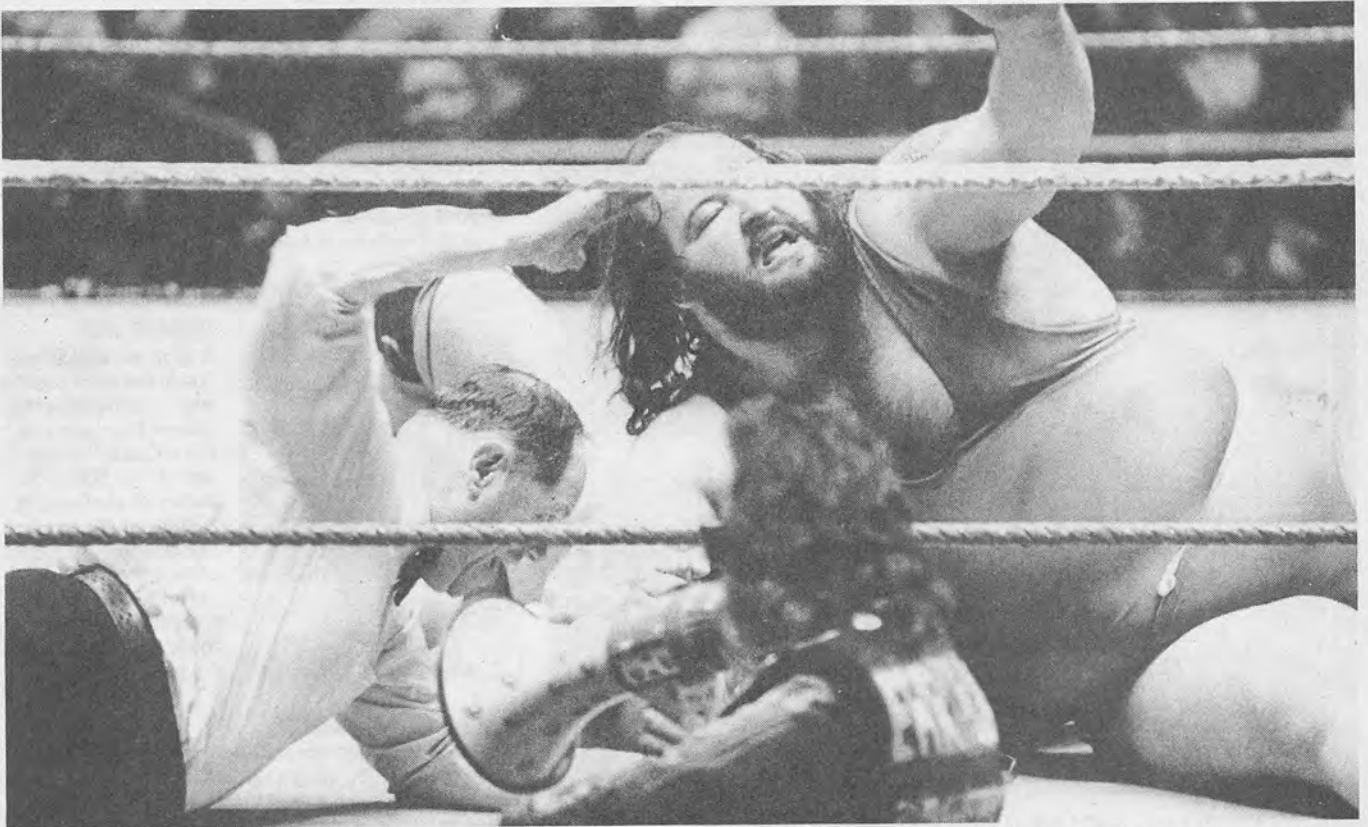
rulebreaker to get the title matches. That's what Andre [the Giant] did back in '87."

Loved and admired by the fans, Andre longed for a title match against Hogan, but the champion, whether out

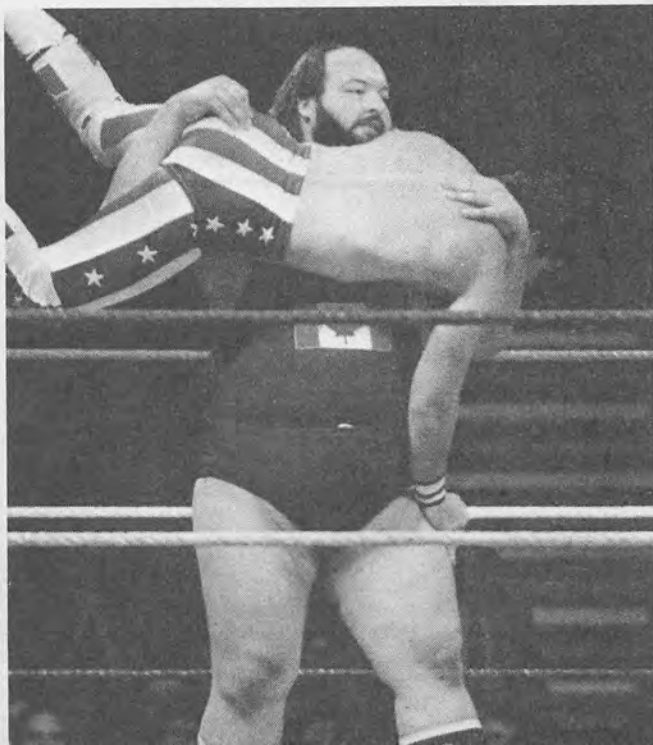
of fear of the Giant or simply because he didn't think his friend *wanted* to wrestle him, didn't consent to a match. So Andre went out and hired Hogan nemesis Bobby Heenan as his manager and demanded a match. Only after he

attacked Hogan did Andre get his chance.

"Tito conceivably could get frustrated to the point where he would turn bad, too," Santana's close friend conceded.



Veterans like Duggan have been demolished by Earthquake (above), as have lesser talents like Mark Young (below left) and Sam Houston (below right). Nevertheless, many WWF wrestlers don't think Earthquake deserves a title shot just yet.



And he probably isn't the only one. There are men with rulebreaking backgrounds who might change their ways in a heartbeat given the opportunity for real success, men like Roddy Piper, Brutus Beefcake, Big Bossman, Hercules . . .

. . . and Jake Roberts.

"Don't think Jake's gonna be a good boy for the rest of his career," said Steve Williams, a former *and* enemy of Jake's. "He sees what's going on with Earthquake. When Jake was nasty, he got a lot of shots at Hogan. Now his patience is starting to wear thin. He feels he can beat anybody in the world, and he's not through trying to prove it.

"I could name about 10 other guys who'll turn bad if Earthquake continues to get title shots," said Santana's friend. "The point is, the WWF is gonna have a lot of problems on its hands if they aren't careful. They won't have hardly anybody left who respects the rules."

Earthquake's associates say he couldn't care less about the gripes of the veterans. "He feels he's earned his way to the top," said one friend. "If he spent all his time listening to these people complain, he wouldn't get anywhere. He'll keep beating people up until he's the new World champion. And even after he wins the title, he'll be just as vicious as he ever was. That's the only way to stay on top."

A WWF with Earthquake as champion could have at least one positive effect: It would unite fan favorites and rulebreakers alike in an effort to dethrone the giant Canadian. If he doesn't make any friends on the way up, he surely won't have any on the way down.

"As far as I'm concerned, 'Quake is on his own," said one WWF wrestler. "He has a pretty good manager behind him in Jimmy Hart, and a friend in Dino Bravo, and he's gonna need all their help. It's a race to the belt he might win, but his victory will come at a high cost."

A cost the entire WWF may not be willing to pay. ☐

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INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| 1— RIC FLAIR
NWA World champion | 4— LEX LUGER
U.S. champion | 8— RANDY SAVAGE
No. 3 contender: WWF title | 12— BILL DUNDEE
CWA champion |
| 2— ULTIMATE WARRIOR
WWF World & I-C champion | 5— JERRY LAWLER
USWA champion | 9— KERRY VON ERICH
USWA Texas champion | 13— CARLOS COLON
WWC Universal champion |
| 3— HULK HOGAN
No. 1 contender: WWF title | 6— DUSTY RHODES
No. 2 contender: WWF title | 10— LARRY ZBYSZKO
No. 1 contender: AWA title | 14— STEVE KEIRN
PWF champion |
| | 7— MR. SAITO
AWA World champion | 11— EARTHQUAKE
No. 4 contender: WWF title | 15— TONY ATLAS
ICW champion |

NWA

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1— RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN | 4— KEVIN SULLIVAN
252, Boston, MA | 8— CACTUS JACK
247, Truth or Cons., NM | 12— MARK CALLOUS
320, Dallas, TX |
| 2— LEX LUGER
268, Chicago, IL | 5— MIKE ROTUNDO
245, Syracuse, NY | 9— EDDIE GILBERT
222, Lexington, TN | 13— MIL MASCARAS
245, Mexico City, Mexico |
| 3— NORMAN
380, Saginaw, MI | 6— TOMMY RICH
248, Hendersonville, TN | 10— ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER
360, Khartoum, Sudan | 14— SAMOAN SAMU
260, Samoa |
| | 7— JOHNNY ACE
250, San Bernadino, CA | 11— ROBERT GIBSON
225, Pensacola, FL | 15— RANGER ROSS
225, Acworth, GA |

WWF

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1— ULTIMATE WARRIOR
280, Queens, NY | 4— RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL | 8— TED DIBIASE
247, Omaha, NB | 12— RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN |
| 2— HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA | 5— EARTHQUAKE
462, Montreal, Quebec | 9— RODDY PIPER
231, Glasgow, Scotland | 13— JAKE ROBERTS
246, Stone Mountain, GA |
| 3— DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX | 6— BRUTUS BEEFCAKE
273, San Francisco, CA | 10— BIG BOSSMAN
348, Cobb County, GA | 14— HACKSAW DUGGAN
280, Glens Falls, NY |
| | 7— CURT HENNIG
235, Minneapolis, MN | 11— RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec, City, Quebec | 15— THE BARBARIAN
295, New York, NY |

AWA

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| 1— MR. SAITO
247, Tokyo, Japan | 4— D.J. PETERSON
245, St. Joseph, MO | 8— COL. DeBEERS
248, Cape Town, S. Africa | 12— JOHN NORD
316, Bozeman, MT |
| 2— LARRY ZBYSZKO
248, Pittsburgh, PA | 5— TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX | 9— TOMMY JAMMER
265, St. Joseph, MO | 13— THE TROOPER
243, Charlotte, NC |
| 3— SGT. SLAUGHTER
310, Parris Island, SC | 6— KOKINA MAXIMUS
340, Samoa | 10— PAUL DIAMOND
230, Thunder Bay, Ontario | 14— BRAD RHEINGANS
248, Appleton, MN |
| | 7— NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia | 11— THE RUSSIAN BRUTE
285, Moscow, Russia | 15— CURTIS HUGHES
308, Kansas City, KS |

MOST POPULAR

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 1— THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular | 4— DUSTY RHODES
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular | 8— RODDY PIPER
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular | 12— JAKE ROBERTS
Last month: No. 14 Most Popular |
| 2— HULK HOGAN
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular | 5— STING
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular | 9— KERRY VON ERICH
Last month: No. 13 Most Popular | 13— JEFF JARRETT
Last month: No. 10 Most Popular |
| 3— LEX LUGER
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated | 6— NORMAN
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular | 10— ANDRE THE GIANT
Last month: unrated | 14— MIKE ROTUNDO
Last month: unrated |
| | 7— BIG BOSSMAN
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular | 11— BRUTUS BEEFCAKE
Last month: No. 12 Most Popular | 15— SGT. SLAUGHTER
Last month: unrated |

MOST HATED

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| 1— RIC FLAIR
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated | 4— EARTHQUAKE
Last month: unrated | 8— RICK MARTEL
Last month: unrated | 12— TULLY BLANCHARD
Last month: unrated |
| 2— RANDY SAVAGE
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated | 5— CURT HENNIG
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated | 9— LANNY POFFO
Last month: No. 9 Most Hated | 13— BAD NEWS BROWN
Last month: No. 12 Most Hated |
| 3— JERRY LAWLER
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated | 6— TED DIBIASE
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated | 10— TONY ATLAS
Last month: No. 11 Most Hated | 14— MARK CALLOUS
Last month: unrated |
| | 7— KEVIN SULLIVAN
Last month: unrated | 11— RICK RUDE
Last month: No. 13 Most Hated | 15— CACTUS JACK
Last month: unrated |

TAG TEAMS

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1— RICK & SCOTT STEINER
NWA World tag team champions | 6— THE ROCKERS
No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title | 11— THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS
No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag team title |
| 2— DEMOLITION
WWF World tag team champions | 7— MINNESOTA WRECKING CREW II
No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title | 12— THE ORIENT EXPRESS
No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title |
| 3— THE ROAD WARRIORS
No. 3 contenders: NWA tag team title | 8— DOOM
No. 2 contenders: NWA tag team title | 13— THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS
No. 2 contenders: U.S. tag team title |
| 4— BRIAN PILLMAN & TOM ZENK
U.S. tag team champions | 9— MIKE ENOS & WAYNE BLOOM
AWA World tag team champions | 14— THE SUPER MEDICS
WWC tag team champions |
| 5— THE HART FOUNDATION
No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title | 10— REX KING & STEVE DOLL
USWA tag team champions | 15— THE BUSHWHACKERS
No. 4 contenders: WWF tag team title |

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place .

For period ended April 2, 1990

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

* ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

DAN KROFFAT & DOUG FURNAS

(March 2, 1990; from Toshikaki Kawada & Samson Fuyuki; Nagoya, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(October 11, 1989; from Genichiro Tenryu; Yokohama, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STAN HANSEN & GENICHIRO TENRYU

(December 6, 1989; tournament final over Jumbo Tsuruta & Yoshiaki Yatsu; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI

(October 20, 1989; from Joe Malenko; Nagoya, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(October 11, 1989; from Genichiro Tenryu; Yokohama, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: MITSUKO NISHIWAKI

(January 1, 1990; elimination final over Bull Nakano; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MINAMI TOYOTA

(November 18, 1989; tournament final over Mika Tekahashi; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

GRIZZLY IWAMOTO & AJA KONG

(December 9, 1989; from Yumiko Hotta & Mitsuko Nishiwaki; Tokyo, Japan)

AWA WORLD CHAMPION: MR. SAITO

(February 10, 1990; from Larry Zbyszko; Tokyo, Japan)

AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE DESTRUCTION CREW

(October 1, 1989; tournament final over Greg Gagne & Paul Diamond; Rochester, MN)

AWA WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: CANDI DEVINE

(December 6, 1989; tournament match over Judy Martin; Toronto, Ontario)

CWA CHAMPION: BILL DUNDEE

(November 19, 1989; from Dirty White Boy; Memphis, TN)

CWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by The Rock 'n' Roll Express)

ICW CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS

(February 11, 1989; from Joe Savoldi; Presque Isle, ME)

ICW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE HELD UP

(most recently held by Dennis Condrey & Doug Gilbert)

IWGP CHAMPION: BIG VAN VADER

(August 10, 1989; from Riki Choshu; Tokyo, Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

MASA SAITO & SHINYA HASHIMOTO

(September 20, 1989; from Riki Choshu & Takayuki Izuki; Osaka, Japan)

IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: THUNDER RIGER

(January 31, 1990; from Naoki Sano; Osaka, Japan)

LPWA CHAMPION: SUSAN SEXTON

(by LPWA officials' decision)

NWA TV CHAMPION: ARN ANDERSON

(January 2, 1990; from The Great Muta; Gainesville, GA)

NWA U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRIAN PILLMAN & TOM ZENK

(February 12, 1990; tournament final over Michael Hayes & Jim Garvin; Rainsville, AL)

NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR

(May 7, 1989; from Rick Steamboat; Nashville, TN)

NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK & SCOTT STEINER

(November 1, 1989; from Michael Hayes & Jim Garvin; Atlanta, GA)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: TITLE HELD UP

(most recently held by Curtis Thompson)

*** PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**

JEFF WARNER & ART BARR

(March 31, 1990; tournament final over Bryan Adams & The Grappler; Portland, OR)

*** PACIFIC NORTHWEST TV CHAMPION: SCOTTY THE BODY**

(March 17, 1990; from Ricky Santana; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(October 11, 1989; from Genichiro Tenryu; Yokohama, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INT'L TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

STAN HANSEN & GENICHIRO TENRYU

(December 6, 1989; tournament final over Jumbo Tsuruta & Yoshiaki Yatsu; Tokyo, Japan)

PWF (FLORIDA) CHAMPION: STEVE KEIRN

(July 9, 1989; from Kendall Windham; Orlando, FL)

PWF (FLORIDA) TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE NASTY BOYS

(January 6, 1990; from Bounty Hunter I & Terminator; Nassau, Bahamas)

PWF (FLORIDA) LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JIM BACKLUND

(February 11, 1990; tournament final victory; Las Vegas, NV)

U.S. CHAMPION: LEX LUGER

(May 22, 1989; from Michael Hayes; Bluefield, WV)

USWA CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER

(January 8, 1990; from King Cobra; Memphis, TN)

USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: REX KING & STEVE DOLL

(February 6, 1990; from Robert Fuller & Brian Lee; Louisville, KY)

USWA TEXAS CHAMPION: KERRY VON ERICH

(January 5, 1990; from Jerry Lawler; Dallas, TX)

WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: HARLEY RACE

(January 6, 1990; from Miguel Perez Jr; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

*** WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: INVADER I & IV**

(March 10, 1990; tournament final over The Mercenaries; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: EDDIE WATTS

(January 27, 1990; from Super Medic; Guaynabo, Puerto Rico)

WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: MANNY FERNANDEZ

(January 13, 1990; from Invader I; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

*** WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SUPER MEDICS**

(March 31, 1990; from The Mercenaries; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

*** WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON**

(March 31, 1990; from Abdullah the Butcher; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER

(July 28, 1987; from Monster Ripper; Trinidad, West Indies)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

(August 28, 1989; from Rick Rude; East Rutherford, NJ)

*** WWF WORLD CHAMPION: THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**

(April 1, 1990; from Hulk Hogan; Toronto, Ontario)

*** WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DEMOLITION**

(April 1, 1990; from Andre the Giant & Haku; Toronto, Ontario)

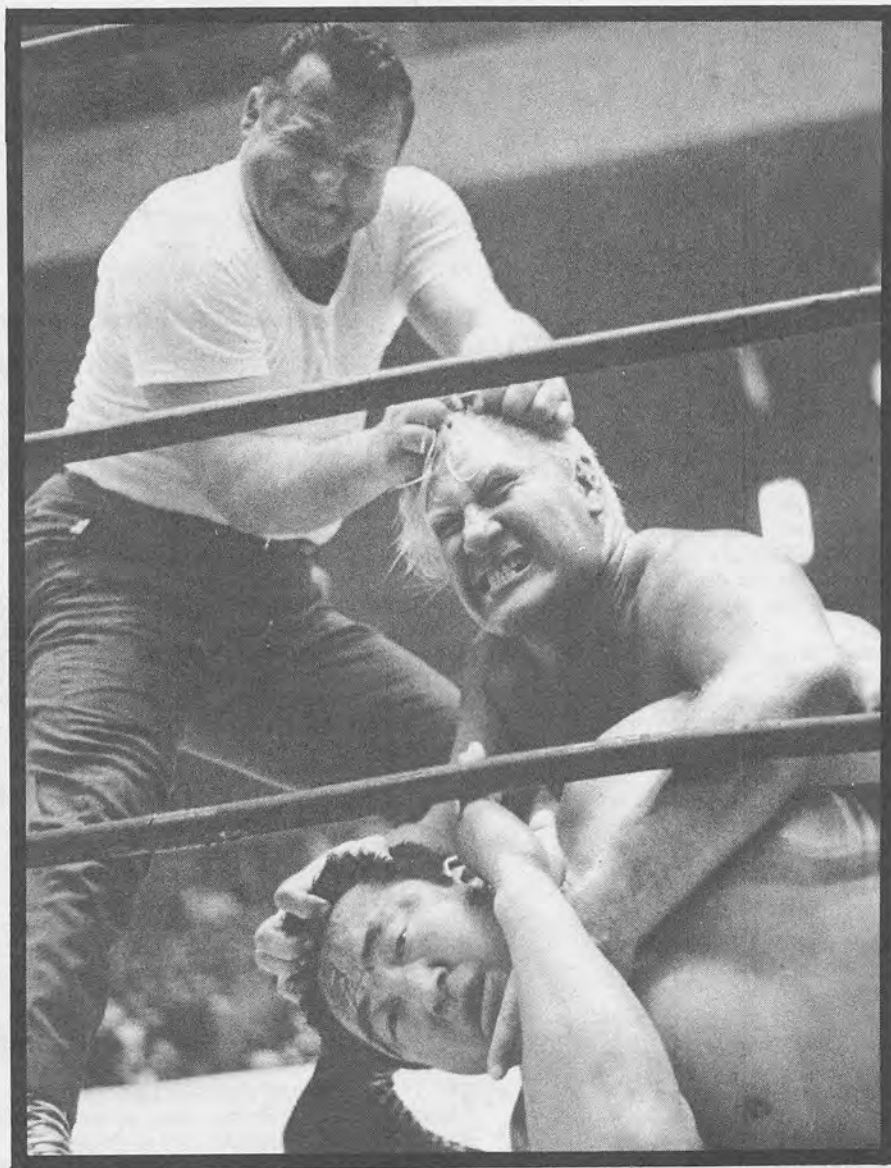
WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: ROCKIN' ROBIN

(October 7, 1988; from Sherri Martel; Paris, France)

Blast From The Past

This Month In Wrestling History

“A NIGHT OF BLOODY REVENGE”



RIKIDOZAN vs. FRED BLASSIE

May 1962

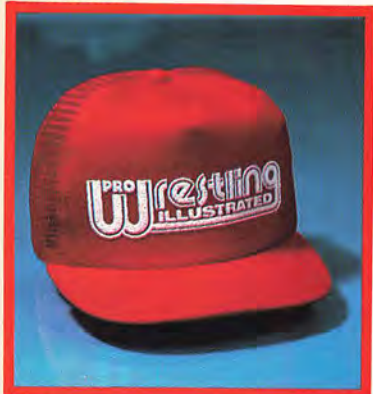
The first time they met, fans couldn't believe their eyes. There was Rikidozan, the finest Japanese wrestler of his era, laying on the mat in a pool of blood—thanks to the barbaric tactics of the “Vampire,” Fred Blassie. Japanese fans screamed for a rematch, and they got what they wanted in this bout held at the Metropolitan Gymnasium in Tokyo. Japanese promoters imported American grappler Arnold

Skaaland as special referee, but even the “Golden Boy” could not prevent Blassie from tearing Rikidozan's forehead to shreds with his teeth. This time, however, Rikidozan used several karate chops to kayo and pin the infamous Blassie, who had to be carried back to the dressing room on a stretcher.

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